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# Allegiances

***ShadowClan***

**Leader**

Foxstar - Striped ginger tom with amber eyes

**Deputy**

Ashfoot - Large patched gray tom with black eyes

**Medicine cats**

Lilyheart - Spotted white tom with black eyes

**Warriors**

Mousewhisker - Gray she-cat with green eyes

Hawkclaw - Striped brown tom with brown eyes

Cloverfeather - White she-cat with green eyes

Echopaw - Striped dark gray she-cat with blue eyes

Longwing - Skinny light gray tom with brown eyes

Lavenderpaw - Black she-cat with hazel eyes

Icefur - Tiny light gray she-cat with blue eyes

Lightstorm - Cream-coloured and gray tom with black eyes

Pineneedle - Patched ginger she-cat with brown eyes

Stormpaw - Tiny gray tom with gray eyes

Thrushleaf - Brown and black tom with blue eyes

Briarfang - Dark gray she-cat with brown eyes

Cindertail - Fluffy calico she-cat with blue eyes

Swiftsap - Skinny ginger she-cat with amber eyes

Crowfur - Black tom with green eyes

Rainpaw - Patched light gray tom with blue eyes

Jaypool - Striped brown tom, half blind with green eyes

Juniperpaw - Red tom with blue eyes

Amberstorm - Dark ginger tom with green and hazel eyes

Berrypaw - Red she-cat with black eyes

**Queens**

Pebblewing - White and ginger she-cat with blue eyes(Mother to Moonkit and Sandkit)

Branchleap - Striped brown she-cat with yellow eyes(Mother to Beetlekit and Hazelkit)

**Kits**

Moonkit - Fluffy white spotted dark gray she-cat with blue eyes

Dustkit - Fluffy cream-coloured tom with green eyes

Hazelkit - Fluffy dark ginger she-cat with hazel eyes

Sandkit - Cream-coloured tom with green eyes

Beetlekit - Spotted small brown tom with yellow eyes

**Elders**

Berrystripe - Orange and black striped tom with green eyes

Darkpelt - Dark gray she-cat with black eyes

Dawnstorm - Striped ginger she-cat with brown eyes

Brownmouse - Brown and white tom with brown eyes

Pounceleap - White tom with grey eyes

**ThunderClan**

**Leader**

Oakstar - Large brown she-cat with black eyes

**Deputy**

Ivywater - Spotted white she-cat with blue eyes

**Medicine cats**

Fogberry - Red tom with gray eyes

Fawnpaw - Albino she-cat

**Warriors**

Firtail - Fluffy striped black tom with green eyes

Thrushthorn - Slim light brown tom with dark brown eyes

Deersong - Light brown she-cat with blue eyes

Russettail - Ginger tom with a brown bushy tail and yellow eyes

Cherryfall - Fluffy red she-cat with hazel eyes

Fernreed - Calico tom with red eyes

Dawncloud - Dark ginger she-cat with amber eyes

Bluegaze - Blue-gray tom with black eyes

Ginger - Ginger tom with green eyes

Stonepelt - Gray tom with hazel eyes

Miststep - White she-cat with blue eyes

Hawkwhisker - Ginger tom with green eyes

Brindleheart - Spotted dark brown she-cat with brown eyes

Twigclaw - Small gray tom with brown eyes

Lionwing - Ginger and cream-coloured she-cat with yellow eyes

Sweetpaw - Tortoiseshell tom with green eyes

Larkfeather - Small ginger and brown she-cat with black eyes

**Queens**

Redfoot - White she-cat with hazel eyes(Mother to Mosskit, Pouncekit and Snowkit)

**Kits**

Mosskit - Gray tom with green eyes

Pouncekit - Red tom with blue eyes

Snowkit - White she-cat with hazel eyes

**Elders**

Nightfrost - White she-cat with black eyes

Hollycloud - Gray tom with green eyes

Snowtail - Deaf white tom with blue eyes

***WindClan***

**Leader**

Shrewstar - Small brown tom with black eyes

**Deputy**

Opalfoot - Dark gray she-cat with blue eyes

**Medicine cats**

Heathercloud - White she-cat with blue and yellow eyes

**Warriors**

Thicketwhisker - Tortoiseshell tom with green eyes

Blossomspeckle - Calico she-cat with blue eyes

Cloverpaw - White she-cat with green eyes

Gorseface - Light brown tom with hazel eyes

Reedspeckle - Dark ginger tom with white spots and black eyes

Lionspot - Golden tabby tom with green eyes

Ashfeather - Striped gray she-cat with brown eyes

Sparrowpelt - Small brown she-cat with blue eyes

Featherweed - White she-cat with green eyes

Owlcrow - Black tom with brown eyes

Embertail - Dark ginger tom with hazel eyes

Amberpaw - Red she-cat with blue eyes

Spiderheart - Dark gray she-cat with black eyes

Berrywhisker - Light gray tom with amber eyes

Junipertail - Fluffy brown tom with blue eyes

Deadeye - Half blind black tom with green eyes

Brownpelt - Skinny brown she-cat with brown eyes

Blackstream - Black tom with blue eyes

Birdnose - Small spotted gray she-cat with black eyes

Duskpaw - Ginger she-cat with amber eyes

Addertail - Striped brown tom with brown eyes

Flameheart - Ginger tom with green eyes

Whitebird - White she-cat with blue eyes

**Queens**

Rushingflower - Fluffy light gray she-cat with hazel eyes

**Kits**

Cloudkit - Light gray she-cat with blue eyes

Echokit - Light gray tom with blue eyes

**Elders**

Icefoot - White tom with blue eyes

Rockheart - Gray tom with black eyes

Flowerfoot - Brown she-cat with green eyes

***RiverClan***

**Leader**

Puddlestar - Gray tom with blue eyes

**Deputy**

Mudflower - Brown tom with blue eyes

**Medicine cats**

Medicine cats Yellowshade - Cream-coloured she-cat with black eyes

Ivymist - Spotted white she-cat with blue eyes

**Warriors**

Rockclaw - Large gray tom with brown eyes

Molestorm - Small brown tom with black eyes

Dapplepaw - Calico tom with black eyes

Pigeonsnail - Small gray she-cat with green eyes

Mossfur - Fluffy gray she-cat with blue eyes

Mangoear - Calico she-cat with hazel eyes

Kestralpaw - Striped gray she-cat with hazel eyes

Tigersong - Ginger tom with brown eyes

Raventail - Black tom with hazel eyes

Willowpaw - Dark gray she-cat with purple eyes

Breezewing - Gray she-cat with blue eyes

Silverpaw - Small striped light gray tom with blue eyes

Shellclaw - Small striped light gray she-cat with blue eyes

Tinytail - Large white tom with brown eyes

Cloudleaf - White tom with green eyes

Owlfeather - Spotted gray she-cat with black eyes

**Queens**

Brightfish - Blue-gray she-cat with blue eyes (Mother to Stormkit, Onekit, Barkkit and Pinkkit)

**Kits**

Stormkit - Small dark gray tom with blue eyes

Onekit - Ginger she-cat with black eyes

Barkkit - Striped dark gray she-cat with blue eyes

Pinkkit - Gray she-cat with hazel eyes

**Elders**

Mousepelt - Brown tom with black eyes

# Prologue

A ginger tom woke up in the hunting grounds of StarClan, and in front of him, he saw a yellow-black she-cat in front of him.

"Honeystream!" The tom mewed in excitement. Jumping up immediately, he touched noses with his former mate. Honeystream leaned forward, accepting the tom's touch. She was obviously glad to see him, and he returned the feeling.

"Foxstar, I have a prophecy for you." She told him. "A moon will rise and watch over the Clans as her own kits, though she has suffered more than any cat should."

Foxstar was confused at these words. "I don't want any cat of mine from ShadowClan to suffer. Is it because of the recent rogue attack? Another Clan?"

A brown tabby tom appeared and got to Foxstar's side.

"Dewstar." Foxstar gasped.

"The answers will be told in the future, but remember this. This cat will be important to ShadowClan." Dewstar mewed.

"Wait!" Foxstar called, as Dewstar and Honeystream started to leave. Foxstar then woke up with a jolt, and he heard rustling from the entrance.

"Come in." Foxstar meowed, still a little startled from the dream. A white and ginger she-cat with blue eyes came in, with a black and yellow tom with green eyes behind her.

"Hello, Foxstar. We're worried about the rogue attack. My kits are coming soon, and what will we do if the rogues come back?" The white she-cat whined.

"We've dealt with them before and didn't lose anybody, we can do it

again, Pebblewing." Foxstar replied.

Suddenly, a spotted white tom came in. "Sorry to eavesdrop into your conversation Foxstar, but Pounceleap nearly died with that terrible bite in her throat, and Jaypool was lucky to not go completely blind."

"Lilyheart, Pounceleap was able the kill that black tom before he killed her, and Jaypool and Juniperpaw were together the entire time, hence Juniperpaw saved Jaypool. Everything's fine." Foxstar growled. There was a shuffle at the den entrance. "Ashfoot, what do you need?"

Ashfoot looked at the black and yellow tom. "Sorry to bother you, but I have chosen Leafcloud to go on a hunting patrol near ThunderClan border."

"Very well then." Leafcloud replied, heading for the forest.

"All of you are dismissed. Nobody needs to worry about the rogues, and that is final. Please leave my den." Foxstar said, with a hint of annoyance in his growl.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Hi! So, I'll be leaving a message on each part. Not sure why but I will :D
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# Chapter 1

Moonkit was peacefully throwing a moss ball back and forth to her littermate, Dustkit, when suddenly Sandkit knocked it out of the way.

"There's no time to be playing that. Come on, let's go watch Twigpaw and Rosepaw's ceremony!" He squealed, with Hazelkit by his side, shining brightly. Moonkit was confused. Sandkit's mother, Blossomleaf, had died last sunrise from a tree falling into camp, and his father doesn't visit the nursery anymore, yet Sandkit was bouncing around like nothing ever happened.

"But what if we get caught?" Beetlekit squeaked. Even though he was Hazelkit's brother, the two of them were completely different. Hazelkit was brave, and, in Moonkit's opinion, a little selfish. Beetlekit however, was shy.

"We won't get caught, you scaredy-mouse!" Hazelkit told him. Beetlekit was used to being call scaredy-mouse, as it was common from Sandkit and Hazelkit. A loud yowl then came from Highrock.

"Let all cats who are old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath Highrock for a clan meeting!" It was Foxstar. The ceremony was starting.

Branchleap and Pebblewing was still asleep, so it was the perfect time to watch the ceremony. Quietly peeking out of the Nursery, Moonkit, Dustkit, Sandkit and Hazelkit could see Foxstar. "Once again, it is time for more warriors. The warrior den is full already, so we will need to expand it."

Murmurs of agreement sounded from the crowd.

"Twigpaw."

Twigpaw came forward.

"Do you promise to uphold the warrior code and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Twigpaw replied.

"Then, by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Twigpaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Twigfang. StarClan honors your bravery and determination, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

"Twigfang! Twigfang!"

Moonkit was amazed. Is this what Foxstar says every warrior ceremony? How does he remember the exact words each time? Moonkit was lost in

thought, then realised it was Rosepaw's turn.

"Rosepaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Rosefire. StarClan honors your loyalty and honesty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

This time, Moonkit whispered "Rosefire! Rosefire!"with the rest of the Clan. Quiet enough that only Dustkit beside her could hear her, and he cheered along with her.

After the ceremony, the kits was astonished.

"I can't wait to become a medicine cat apprentice!" Hazelkit exclaimed.

"I know you'll be the best medicine cat StarClan has ever seen!" Sandkit agreed. "You should have been there, Beetlekit!"

"I'm sure it was fun." Beetlekit mewed quietly. Hazelkit had always wanted to become a medicine cat, but Moonpaw had honestly always wanted to become one as well, but decided to become a warrior since she had always won the mini fight games she played with Dustpaw.

"I'm sure it was really fun." A growl sounded from behind them. Pebblewing and Branchleap were awake. "You all know you're not

old enough to go to ceremonies."

"We're sorry Pebblewing, we won't do it again!" Dustkit mewed apologetically.

"Hazelkit, if you want to be a medicine apprentice, you could always ask Lilyheart." Branchleap meowed.

"But I'm scared!" Hazelkit complained.

Moonkit purred. Even though Hazelkit was brave, but she always had a soft side. With an urge of frustration, Moonkit opened her mouth to change the topic, but Dustkit said it for her. "Let's play find the pinecone!" he squealed. He and Moonkit seemed to think alike.

"No, we'll play hunt the rabbit!" Sandkit argued.

"But you and Hazelkit always target me." Dustkit complained.

"I don't care!" Hazelkit argued back.

"Beetlekit's a scaredy-mouse again, haha!" Sandpaw teased, as Beetlekit huddled closer to Branchleap.

"That is no way to behave! You will play find the pinecone. Sandkit, Hazelkit, you won't be a warrior or medicine cat if you're selfish!" Branchleap hissed. Murmuring an angry sorry, Sandkit grabbed the pinecone indicating that he was hiding it first. As he was hiding it, Moonkit heard a very small rustling at the nest where she and Dustkit slept.

"Alright, I'm ready!" Sandkit squeaked.

Dashing towards her nest, Moonkit lifted the nest up to find the pinecone underneath, and grabbed it between her jaws and faced Sandkit.

"No fair, you went to that spot immediately! You must have cheated!" Sandkit hissed.

"I didn't!" Moonkit complained, as she started to panic.

"Then why did you go to your nest as soon as I was ready? You must have peaked!"

"I heard you!"

"Liar!" Hazelkit joined in. "Sandkit will hide the pinecone again, and you won't be playing!"

As Dustkit looked around frantically, Moonkit could tell that he was also starting to panic.

"Moonkit wouldn't have cheated! She's probably telling the truth." Dustkit mewed.

"So you're helping the cheater?" Sandkit sneered. "We'll let you play, even for that."

"I'm not playing with *both* of you anymore!" Dustkit growled, though Moonkit could see his eyes glittering with sadness, and he was starting to cry.

"Hazelkit! Sandkit!" Branchleap hissed. "What has gotten into both of you? I watched Moonkit. She didn't peak."

"But-" Sandkit stuttered, before being cut again.

"No buts. Don't just accuse somebody of cheating and then exclude them because you think their lying. You can ask me to watch all of you."

"Ok." Hazelpaw murmured.

"Apologise. Both of you."

"We're sorry, Moonkit." Sandkit and Hazelkit mumbled.

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This chapter may seem boring, but I promise it gets better from here! ^w^

And yes, Hazelkit and Sandkit both hate Moonkit.
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Just a mini side note btw, Moonkit and Dustkit are the oldest kits in the nursery. Sandkit is the second oldest while Hazelkit and Beetlekit are the youngest.

# Chapter 2

"Moonkit."

As Moonkit walked up beside Foxstar, she could hear her heart beat so loud she was sure the entire Clan could hear it. "From this day forward until you have earned your warrior name, you will be known as Moonpaw. Your mentor will be Briarfang. Briarfang, share your bravery and skill with Moonpaw to make her the best warrior she can be."

"Moonpaw! Dustpaw! Moonpaw! Dustpaw!"

Moonpaw felt proudness wash over her and Dustpaw She couldn't believe it, she was already an apprentice. *I'll do my best to make you proud, Briarfang!* Moonpaw thought.

Beetlekit rushed up to Moonpaw and Dustpaw. "Congratulations you both! I'm sure Pebblewing is proud." Moonpaw purred. A scoff sounded from behind them. It was Sandkit.

"I know I'll be a *way* better warrior than both of you." Sandkit boasted.

"You can stop boasting, Sandkit. It's old, and doesn't bother us anymore." Moonpaw snarled bravely. "Even Beetlekit doesn't care!"

"Whatever."

. . .

Moonpaw could feel the warmth of the sun rising, and she could hear footsteps coming. "Moonpaw, come on. I'm gonna show you ShadowClan territory."

Walking around, Moonpaw heard a loud roar. "What was *that*!?"

"It's a monster. They keep two-legs in their stomach." Briarfang told

her. You smell that weird stench of cobwebs?" Moonpaw nodded. "That's the ThunderClan border."

"But it stinks! How does ThunderClan cope with that?"

"Our scent probably smells just as bad to them."

"No way!"

A rustling came from the bushes. It was a ThunderClan patrol.

"Haven't been snooping around our territory, have you?" a ginger cat sneered.

"Ginger, ShadowClan cats are loyal. A kittypet like you wouldn't understand that." Briarfang hissed back.

*There are kittypets in ThunderClan?* Moonpaw thought.

"Don't call Ginger a kittypet! He's a warrior, and you can't change that." The gray cat snarled. "I see you've got yourself a new apprentice."

"Yeah, Stonewater. Her name is Moonpaw. Moonpaw, the dark gray cat is Stonewater. The ginger *kittypet* is Ginger. The light gray one is Needleice."

"Okay. Can we go see another part of the territory now?" Moonpaw asked.

"Sure." Briarfang said, before turning back to the ThunderClan cats. "Bye, kittypet Clan!"

As the ThunderClan patrol let off a hiss before leaving, Moonpaw couldn't help but feel bad for them. She knew that ThunderClan wouldn't let kittypets into the clan without reason.

Moonpaw tried to not gag at the smell of fish at the RiverClan border. *How does* any *cat like fish*? Moonpaw wanted to get away from the border immediately. The loud roar of the gorge only made it worse. Her mentor clearly understood her desire, so he meowed, "Alright, we've done enough exploring. Let's get back to camp."

"Thank StarClan! That smell was terrible!" Moonpaw added, already gliding off, not realising where she was going and slipped on a rock on the ground. "Ow!" A sharp pain had hit Moonpaw on the head. The rock had also cut her pad, causing it to bleed.

"Moonpaw, are you okay!?" Briarfang panicked, rushing to her side in an instant. "There's something in your head. Let's get you to Lilyheart, quick!"

In the medicine den, Lilyheart had put some marigold and cobweb on Moonpaw's pad, but as much as Lilyheart could try for the sharp thing, whatever it was, in her head, Lilyheart only caused Moonpaw pain.

"There *must* be more than you can do that just some marigold and cobweb!" Briarfang wailed.

"Sorry, but the thing is too deep. Moonpaw is in the paws of StarClan now." Lilyheart replied. Moonpaw still felt drowsy, but she was able to return to the apprentice den.

. . .

"Moonpaw..."

Moonpaw could hear her name silently being called in her dream.

"Moonpaw!"

Moonpaw was wide awake now. Lavenderpaw was continuously nudging Moonpaw, with the other apprentices by her side. That was when Moonpaw realised it. The sharp thing that fell on her head was glowing, and it made it hard to sleep for the other apprentices. Moonpaw tried hitting it, shaking her head, and even tried clawing it out, but it just caused her pain. All the apprentices had to deal with it.

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Welp, Moonpaw now has a sharp thing in her, dunno what it is but it's annoying.
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# Chapter 3

At the gathering, Foxstar had to choose who would come to gathering. The entire Clan had been informed about Moonpaw's scar two sunrises ago, and for a while, Moonpaw had been getting asked questions a lot.

"Let's see... I'll take... Berrypaw, Longwing, Lavenderpaw, Rosefire, Twigfang, Mousewhisker, Rainpaw, Echopaw, Crowfur, Briarfang and... Moonpaw."

Moonpaw nearly jumped hearing her name. It was her first gathering! Then she remembered her scar. What would everybody think of it? The light was really bright, so it was obviously noticeable But there was no time to complain. Moonpaw wouldn't want to miss her first chance at gathering!

Right after they left camp, Foxstar asked Moonpaw to stand beside him. Nervously, Moonpaw walked beside Foxstar. *Hopefully I don't trip*! It was a cold night, despite it being newleaf, and Moonpaw had to stop herself from shivering, and her paws felt like they were about to fall off. *Who knew the island was so far?* It felt weird that nobody was talking. Especially the fact that Dustpaw wasn't there with her. Looking up at the moon, there wasn't a cloud in sight.

"I need you to be on your best behaviour." Briarfang suddenly mewed. "Don't get so close to cats from other Clans. There may be a truce, but a strong bond between two cats from different Clans can lead to trouble at battle."

Moonpaw shivered. Briarfang made it sound like a cat once betrayed ShadowClan and left it to be with a cat from another Clan. Why would she even want to be with another cat that's not ShadowClan? Especially not RiverClan! Moonpaw still remembered the foul stench of fish at their border.

Finally, at the gathering, Moonpaw could feel eyes looking at her

with curiosity. Foxstar leaps up onto the Great Oak with Ashfoot by his side. Looking around, Moonpaw could see what looked like hundreds of cats. There were scents everywhere. Moonpaw nearly fainted when she realised that she was right next to a wet, brown RiverClan cat. There was an unfamiliar stench mixed with RiverClan and ThunderClan, and Moonpaw guessed it must have been WindClan.

"You see that brown cat?" Briarfang whispered, pointing her tail to a brown tabby. "That's Oakstar, leader of ThunderClan. That blue she-cat over there is Puddlestar, leader of RiverClan. And that dark brown tom is Shrewstar, leader of WindClan."

"Cats of all Clans!" Foxstar boomed. "Welcome to the gathering. I'll start. ShadowClan's land is full of prey, and we have two new warriors, Twigfang and Rosefire."

"Twigfang! Rosefire!" The clans called out, as Twigfang and Rosefire proudly stood up.

"We also have two new apprentices. Moonpaw and Dustpaw. Unfortunately Dustpaw didn't come, but we have Moonpaw."

"Moonpaw! Dustpaw!" Moonpaw felt as if the calls were louder this time.

"WindClan is the same. Rabbits are running very well after leaf-bare ended." Shrewstar meowed

"The river is full of fish. Our elders are starting to get fat." Puddlestar commented.

"Mousepelt is as big as a hawk!" A yowl sounded from the RiverClan cats.

"The undergrowth is flourished with prey." Oakstar meowed. "It seems StarClan had blessed us all with this newleaf. We also have three new apprentices, Mosspaw, Snowpaw and Pouncepaw."

"Mosspaw! Snowpaw! Pouncepaw!"

"Foxstar, if you don't mind me asking, what is that glow from

Moonpaw?" A patched gray cat that was beside Oakstar asked. *That must be ThunderClan's deputy*. Moonpaw thought.

Foxstar let out a sigh. "Moonpaw fell on a sharp object on her first day out of camp. Lilyheart tried his best to remove it, but he couldn't." Moonpaw could hear murmurs of curiosity and confusion around the entire island. She felt really embarrassed.

Back at camp, Dustpaw and Beetlekit bounded up to Moonpaw.

"So how was it?" Dustpaw asked, "You're so lucky to already go on your first gathering!"

"There were a lot of cats." Moonpaw replied, "Most of them were curious about my scar."

Sandkit and Hazelkit then appeared. "I would've been more careful!" Sandkit scoffed.

"Great StarClan, you kits are making the entire forest stay awake!" An elder mewed tirely from the Elder's den. It was Berrystripe. Ignoring the fact that Berrystripe just called two apprentices kits, all of them decided to go to sleep.

. . .

Feeling a shove against her, Moonpaw woke up, startled. "Hey, you know the gorge?" Dustpaw whispered.

"Yeah, what about it?" Moonpaw whispered back.

"Let's go explore."

Moonpaw couldn't believe her ears. The gorge? What if they fell in?

"Come on!" Dustpaw urged.

"Alright! Alright!"

At the gorge, Moonpaw had found a tunnel. Dustpaw came over and saw it as well. Almost immediately, Dustpaw jumped into the hole excitedly. Sighing, Moonpaw followed him. It was dark, and

the tunnel wasn't that slim, but it made Moonpaw uncomfortable. Finally being able to see, Moonpaw realised that there was a rock on the side of the gorge that Dustpaw and Moonpaw were sitting on. The sun was also rising.

"Isn't it beautiful?" Dustpaw commented. Almost lost in thought, Moonpaw realised that the dawn patrol must have left already. Dustpaw also realised that.

Dashing back, they realised they were too late. Foxstar had already seen them.

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By the way, if you ask any questions, I'll be glad to answer them! :D
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# Chapter 4

Moonpaw steps outside of camp onto the soft grass. Ever since she snuck out of camp with Dustpaw and got caught, they were confined into camp for three sunrises, taking care of the elders. Somehow, even though they were confined, they still snuck out with each other back to the gorge to watch the sun rise without being caught. Dustpaw bounded next to her.

"Finally! I'm ready to learn some hunting moves together!" He yowled.

"No, you two will be training separately." Briarfang glared at them from behind. "You both are still in trouble for sneaking out like that."

Moonpaw's tail dropped. They had never trained with each other before!

"Moonpaw, I will teach you how to hunt. You know the hunting crouch, right?" Briarfang asked. Moonpaw nodded and crouched down.

"Don't have your tail too high. If you do that, the prey will spot you." Moonpaw lowered her tail.

"Perfect. Now for your leap. Let me show you first."

After her demonstration, Moonpaw copied her.

"That's excellent! Alright, now try to sniff out prey here."

Focusing hard, Moonpaw was able to sniff out a vole. Dropping into the hunting crouch, Moonpaw waited. *Is it in that grass or is it behind that root?* Moonpaw wondered. It was too hard to tell! Suddenly, the vole shot right out of the grass, and into the forest.

"You shouldn't hesitate. If you do, the prey would find you before

you find them." Briarfang meowed. "Let's go into another area and try again."

Walking, Moonpaw spotted a shrew, moving around the grass not realising the danger. Dropping into the hunting crouch, creeping closer, the shrew turned the way Moonpaw was hiding. Moonpaw didn't think the shrew saw her because of the grass, but was disappointed when the shrew ran away.

"Your tail was too high. Remember to lower it next time." Briarfang mewed. "We should get back to camp now."

While walking back, Moonpaw sniffed something. It was a mouse. Dropping into the hunting crouch, Moonpaw started sneaking towards the mouse, careful to not lift her tail too high, Moonpaw could clearly tell that the mouse was in the grass, and when she was close enough, Moonpaw pounced, got the mouse under her paws and was able to kill it with a killing bite.

"Great job!" Briarfang approved, clearly impressed. "That mouse is really plump. It would be a great addition to the fresh-kill pile."

Moonpaw was glowing with pride. *I caught my first prey!*

"Beetlekit! Branchleap! Guess what!" Moonpaw bounded into the nursery with her mouse. She really wanted Dustpaw to share it with her.

"Moonpaw! That mouse looks delicious!" Branchleap exclaimed. "Is that your first catch?"

"Yeah, I'm planning to share it with Dustpaw."

Hazelkit bounded over, looking ecstatic at the sight of the mouse "Is that mouse for me? Thanks Moonpaw!" And just like that, Hazelkit grabbed the mouse and was about to go to Sandkit when Branchleap grabbed her by the scruff.

"Hazelkit! Don't just assume things and stop being selfish! You should've heard Moonpaw say she was going to share that mouse with Dustpaw!" Branchleap hissed, and Hazelkit dropped the mouse.

"Sorry, Moonpaw." She mumbled

"It's fine, Hazelkit!" Moonpaw exclaimed, though she felt her eyes stinging as she headed to the apprentice den to wait for Dustpaw.

As Dustpaw bounded over to the apprentice den, his jaw dropped as he saw the mouse.

"Did you catch that!?" Dustpaw asked. Moonpaw nodded. "That looks so good!"

"Yeah," Stormpaw mewed, "I still can't believe that was her first catch."

Berrypaw added, "I only caught a small, skinny lizard for my first catch!"

"Do you want to share it, Dustpaw?" Moonpaw asked. Immediately, Dustpaw got next to Moonpaw and took a bite out of it.

"It's so warm!" Dustpaw mewed joyfully.

Moonpaw was dreaming. She was in a pine forest, but not ShadowClan. There wasn't a trace of prey around. A white and ginger tom with glowing hazel eyes suddenly appeared.

"Greetings. My name is Sprintnose." the cat mewed. Moonpaw was confused.

"I'm here to tell you a message. Remember this. You are not who you're supposed to be." The tom then started to walk away.

"Wait! Come back!" Moonpaw pleaded, wanting to know more. "What do you mean by that?" Despite her yowls, Sprintnose just kept on walking and disappeared. Moonpaw then woke up with a jolt. *What a weird dream!*

. . .

After just three moons of training, Moonpaw was excellent at hunting, fighting, and didn't complain about helping the elders. Briarfang always seemed to be proud of Moonpaw, and always

commented that she might have to do her assignment early.

"You're so lucky!" Dustpaw wailed, clearly jealous. Suddenly, Icefur called to them.

"Briarfang! Moonpaw! Foxstar wants you in his den." He mewed.

His den! Moonpaw never been in Foxstar's den before. She was really excited.

"Briarfang. Moonpaw. Come in." Foxstar mewed. Lilyheart was beside him.

"Why have you called us, Foxstar?" Briarfang asked.

"Lilyheart has had a vision." Foxstar began. "Moonpaw needs to become her apprentice."

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Moonpaw's destiny is a medicine cat apprentice!

Wait didn't Hazelpaw want to be a medicine cat?
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# Chapter 5

Moonpaw was stunned. A medicine cat apprentice? She couldn't believe her ears.

"You've made a mistake. She can't be. Moonpaw's basically already ready for her assignment!" Briarfang yowled.

"I'm sorry Briarfang, but I have made no mistake. Lilyheart had a vision with Graystar two moons ago telling her that Moonpaw isn't what she's supposed to be." Foxstar mewed calmy.

"I don't believe it. It just can't be true."

"A cat named Sprintnose actually told me the same thing two moons ago as well. It was just a weird dream though, wasn't it?" Moonpaw asked.

Lilyheart shook his head. "No, it was a vision."

Foxstar padded out of the den and jumped onto high rock.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather here beneath Highrock for a Clan meeting!" He yowled. As cats gathered with confused faces, Moonpaw could hear confused murmurs amongst the cats.

"What's this about?"

"I don't think Sandkit is supposed to be an apprentice yet."

"Maybe a warrior ceremony?"

Foxstar waited for the murmurs to quiet down. "Lilyheart has had a vision. Moonpaw will now become a medicine cat apprentice."

Shocked mewes and protests came from the cats. All of them knew how well of a hunter Moonpaw is, and the fact that she never came

back from hunting empty-pawed. Usually with at least two pieces of prey.

"I know this is shocking to all of you," Foxstar continued, "but I hope StarClan will guide Moonpaw into becoming a great medicine cat."

"Moonpaw! Moonpaw!" The cats cheered. Glancing over to the nursery, Moonpaw could see Hazelkit and Sandkit glaring at her, with hatred in their eyes.

After the ceremony, Dustpaw came to Moonpaw. "Now we can't train anymore!" He wailed. "But this is what StarClan says, and I must accept it."

"It's not like we'll never see eachother again, Dustpaw!" Moonpaw mewed, and she added with a whisper, "We'll still meet at the gorge after all." Dustpaw smiled and left with Rosefire. After that, Sandkit came to her with Hazelkit by his side, sobbing. She let out a terrible fit.

"I told you *I* wanted to be a medicine cat!" She wailed.

"Yeah, why did you steal her future!?" Sandkit joined in. Moonpaw tried to protest, but they wouldn't hear any excuses.

"You are the meanest, worst cat ever!" Hazelkit yowled, "Never talk to me again!" After that, she ran off with Sandkit.

Going back to the medicine den, Lilyheart could tell something was wrong.

"Moonpaw, is something bothering you?" He asked.

"No, nothing is bothering me." Moonpaw replied. She could tell that Lilyheart could tell that she was lying, but just whisked off to the herb storage.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

So, funny story today.
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I was working on this at school, when one of my classmates saw me.

She ended up being obsessed, and wouldn't return my laptop, saying I write like an actual author O.o

Help T^T

# Chapter 6

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath Highrock for a Clan meeting!"

Moonpaw woke up, and headed to the crowd of cats. It was time for Sandkit's ceremony, and Moonpaw was suddenly glad that she didn't have to sleep in the apprentice's den with him.

"Once again, it is time to have new apprentices." Foxstar mewed. "Sandkit."

As Sandkit bounded over, he was particularly gleaming with pride and joy.

"From this day forward until you have earned your warrior name, you will be known as Sandpaw. Your mentor will be Hawkclaw."

Hawkclaw walked next to Sandpaw.

"Hawkclaw, use your strength and bravery with Sandpaw to make him the best warrior he can be."

"Sandpaw! Sandpaw!" The entire Clan cheered.

When the cats finally cleared, Moonpaw headed to Sandpaw "Congratulations, Sandpaw!" She mewed. Sandpaw just gave her a hard glare full of hatred before dashing to Hazelkit. *It's my fault that they both hate me.* Moonpaw thought. Sighing, she entered the medicine den. It was going to be her first day learning to be a medicine cat.

Lilyheart made some room in the herb storage for Moonpaw "Alright. The first thing we are going to do is learn about herbs. Do you see this yellow and orange flower? That is marigold. We use it for poultices to treat infected wounds." Lilyheart mewed. *Marigold. Yellow flower. Used to treat wounds.* Moonpaw recited. "These small

black seeds are poppy seeds, used to ease pain and put a cat to sleep." Lilyheart continued. "These yellow flowers are tansy. Have a sniff. They smell different to marigold so you don't get mixed up." Moonpaw sniffed both of them and could tell the difference between the strong scent of tansy and the lighter scent of marigold. "Tansy is good with whitecough, but you would want to use catmint for greencough. This is catmint." Lilyheart mewed, pointing to pale-green leaves with a hairy stem.

After reciting a lot of herbs, Lilyheart started to give questions to Moonpaw, and Moonpaw found it really easy to recite the herbs.

"...poppyseed, used for easing pain and sleeping, marigold, used to treat infections, chervil, the root is for infections, catmint, used for greencough and whitecough, tansy, good for sore bellies, cobweb, used to ease bleeding." Moonpaw recited.

"Very good." Lilyheart praised, "But you mixed tansy and waterlily. Tansy is good for whitecough while waterlily is for sore bellies. Also, thyme isn't for warming cats, you press beside cats for warmth. Thyme is for shock. That one is yarrow by the way. I didn't explain that herb to you."

Moonpaw felt embarrassed as Lilyheart corrected some of them.

"Don't be embarrassed," Lilyheart mewed. "I'm actually really impressed that you remembered so many. I only remembered catmint, marigold, poppy seeds and cobweb my first time."

Moonpaw felt a lot better. She was about to ask what the herb she had mistaken for yarrow was, when Beetlekit and Branchleap entered. Moonpaw could smell blood on Beetlekit, and her belly started to tighten.

"Beetlekit scratched his paw and it started to bleed." Branchleap mewed, calming Beetlekit. Moonpaw started to calm down. *It's only a scratch.*

"Moonpaw, what do you use for bleeding?" Lilyheart asked.

Moonpaw headed to the herb storage and grabbed some cobwebs,

and pressed hard on Beetlekit's pad, ignoring the wince from him, until the bleeding stopped. She then lay the cobweb on his pad. Beetlekit sniffed his pad in surprise.

"Thanks, Moonpaw!" He squeaked, his eyes glowing. Moonpaw felt proud of herself as Lilyheart gave a nod of approval.

As Branchleap and Beetlekit left, Hazelkit came in. Moonpaw expected she also had an injury, but instead, she asked Lilyheart something.

"Lilyheart, I'm nearly six moons old." Hazelkit mewed, "Can I be your apprentice?"

"Hazelkit, you know I already have Moonpaw." Lilyheart replied, obviously trying to hide the fact that he thought that Hazelkit must be a mouse-brain to ask that, even though she knows that Moonpaw was his apprentice. "ShadowClan doesn't need *three* medicine cats!"

Hazelkit bowed her head in acceptance. "Can I at least talk to Moonpaw please?" She asked.

"Sure."

Heading outside, Moonpaw expected Hazelkit to apologise. Instead, as soon as she got out, she saw a blur of yellow. The next second, she was pinned to the ground by Sandpaw.

"This is what you get for stealing Hazelkit's future and being the meanest, stupidest, worst cat ever!" Sandpaw hissed. Lifting his paw up, he scratched Moonpaw deep on her left eye. Yowling in pain, Moonpaw tried to push Sandpaw off, but Hazelkit held her down. Moonpaw could see the world spinning around her. Just when Sandpaw was about to do another blow, Rainpaw and Juniperpaw entered the camp. Moonpaw couldn't see properly, but she could tell that they were both holding some type of prey. She yowled again when Sandpaw clawed her left shoulder badly. Rainpaw and Juniperpaw both dropped their prey, and as Juniperpaw held Hazelkit and Sandpaw back, Rainpaw got to Moonpaw's side. Crowfur and Jaypool then came into the hollow. Moonpaw could hear Jaypool calling for Lilyheart while Crowfur headed to Foxstar's

den. By then, a crowd of cats had formed, and Branchleap was staring in horror at Hazelkit and Sandpaw, with Beetlekit behind her.

"What in the name of StarClan is going on!?" A yowl silenced all the cats at camp, and Foxstar trotted towards Hazelkit and Sandpaw,his eyes filled with anger. "What have *both* of you done? Do you think this is the behaviour of a warrior?"

Sandpaw looked terrified, but Hazelkit was furious. "Moonpaw shouldn't be a medicine cat! I should! Moonpaw is stupid, and mean! It's not *fair*!" Hazelkit whined. Before she could say anymore, a hiss silenced her.

"Hazelkit!" Branchleap scolded, "You *know* StarClan sent Lilyheart a vision, and that Moonpaw is *supposed* to be a medicine cat! I'm so disappointed in you." Those words seemed to shock Hazelkit a little. Branchleap had always told Hazelkit that she was proud of her.

"You both know that by the warrior code, you must *not* attack clanmates." Foxstar hissed, "Hazelkit, you will wait another moon to become an apprentice." Hazelkit's eyes widened. She looked like she was about to complain again, but kept her mouth shut. "Sandpaw, you are confined to camp for a moon. You must take care of Moonpaw and the elders." Sandpaw looked at Hawkclaw, but Hawkclaw just stared sternly back at him.

"I heard you nice and clear what you told Moonpaw the day she became a medicine cat apprentice." He mewed. Dustpaw had just came back from border patrol, and as soon as he heard what was going on from Pineneedle, he immediately raced towards Moonpaw and got to her side.

. . .

Moonpaw felt drowsy while she was being treated in the medicine den. She heard footsteps coming from the entrance, and Dustpaw and Beetlekit.

"How are you feeling, Moonpaw?" Beetlekit asked. Moonpaw didn't have the energy to say anything. Thankfully, Lilyheart talked for

her.

"Moonpaw doesn't have the strength to do much right now," Lilyheart replied. "She's unfortunately blind in her left eye, but she'll survive."

A shriek sounded out of nowhere. Without hesitation, Moonpaw leaped up from her nest and raced outside out of instincts. There, she saw Hazelkit about to be carried away by an owl. Sandpaw tried to get Hazelkit off the giant bird, but just got flung off. Almost immediately, Moonpaw jumped onto Sandpaw's head and off again, onto the owl. The owl tried to fling Moonpaw but Moonpaw hung on. Moonpaw used all her strength she had to lift the claw of the owl, freeing Hazelkit. Hazelkit landed on her paws and Moonpaw stumbled beside her, as the owl flew away to try to find more prey.

"Moonpaw!" Lilyheart shrieked, dashing out of camp.

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Oml I got my best friends to call Hazelkit a brat and made them hate her, but also got them to have her as their favourite character for causing drama- oof

Also, Hazelkit is very much stupid.
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# Chapter 7

As more cats headed to the medicine den, Hazelkit watched in disgust as Moonpaw got more attention every day. So far, all she's been hearing are compliments for Moonpaw. Hazelkit stretched her ears so she could hear what Lilyheart was saying.

"You could have died!" Lilyheart hissed, "Next time, stay in your nest!"

"Hazelkit could have died if Moonpaw didn't save her, you know." Lightstorm mewed. Hazelkit blocked out the rest of the sound, and she stomped of. Spotting Sandpaw by the fresh kill pile, she pounced to him. *Sandpaw must have a good idea to get back at Moonpaw!* She thought, excited to see him again.

"Sandpaw! Do you have a good idea to get back at Moonpaw?" Hazelkit mewed. Instead of accepting, Sandpaw declined.

"Moonpaw saved-" Sandpaw started, but Hazelkit cut him off.

"I don't care about that! Moonpaw's selfish!" Hazelkit hissed.

"I don't want to hurt Moonpaw." Sandpaw growled, leaving Hazelkit alone. Hazelkit started to tear up. Sandpaw had never acted this way to her. Furious, Hazelkit eavesdrops on Lilyheart as Dustpaw and Beetlekit visits Moonpaw.

"She'll be able to return to medicine cat duty in six sunrises." Lilyheart mewed. Stomping off towards the nursery, Hazelkit wanted to claw something. *It's time to get my mother to see sense in herself!*

"Hazelkit! That is no way to speak to your mother!" Branchleap meowed. Hazelkit had enough.

"It's not *fair* that Moonpaw is a medicine apprentice! She's a selfish, stupid cat!" Hazelkit hissed, "Maybe *you* are also stupid and dumb to see that!"

Branchleap stared at her in horror. "That is *it*! If you don't behave yourself, I might as well get Foxstar to never make you a warrior, or even exile you!"

Hazelkit was shocked. "You can't do that to your own kit!"

"I have Beetlekit, and that's enough for me!"

Hazelkit couldn't believe it. Branchleap liked *Beetlekit* more than her. The shy, not confident cat. She looked over to Sandpaw expecting him to stand up for her, but all she saw was hatred in his eyes. Starting to cry, she saw that everybody turned away from her despite the fact she was crying. Going to her nest, Hazelkit realised she was hungry.

"Branchleap..." Hazelkit asks nervously, "I'm hungry, can I have some milk?"

"Hazelkit, I don't have milk. Besides, you should have been eating prey a long time ago." Branchleap replied.

At that very moment, it starts to rain. Hazelkit looks at her mother hopefully, but Branchleap just shook her head.

"If you want food, then go to the fresh-kill pile." She mewed.

Frustrated, Hazelkit runs to the fresh-kill pile as fast as she can. Before even arriving there, she sees that it only has a mouse left, in the cold leafbare. *It's lucky only Lavenderpaw and Brownmouse have greencough,* Hazelkit thought. Suddenly, Lilyheart picked up the mouse.

"Lilyheart! Please can I have the mouse? I'm really hungry." Hazelkit pleaded.

"Sorry, Hazelkit. Moonpaw needs it." Lilyheart replied, walking off. Hazelkit walked back to the nursery, upset, hungry and wet. Beetlekit saw her looking hungry, so he pushed his vole over to

Hazelkit. Grateful for it, Hazelkit took a bite out of the vole. It tasted cold, and the flavour was new and weird, but Hazelkit enjoyed it. After finally finishing the vole, Hazelkit went to bed, still hungry. In the dream, Hazelkit saw herself as a leader, clawing Moonpaw with ShadowClan around her, cheering.

"Get out of this camp!" Hazelkit hissed, "If any of my cats see you within our borders, they *will* kill you!"

Yowls of agreement sounded from the cats around her. Hazelkit felt pride in herself.

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Hazelpaw is a brat. Has unusual dreams, has an unusual personality. An unusual cat, really.
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# Chapter 8

"Your mentor will be Swiftsap. Swiftsap, use your loyalty and strength to make Hazelpaw the best warrior she can be." Foxstar mewed.

"Hazelpaw! Hazelpaw!"

As the cats cheered around her, Hazelpaw realised that not everybody was cheering. Only a few, to be exact. Some cats stared at her blankly and, while the others mumbled things to each other. Also, Hazelpaw knew that Swiftsap was strict. Foxstar must have done it on purpose! Hazelpaw clawed the ground with her claws. It just wasn't fair that she got a strict mentor while Beetlepaw got Swiftsap's sister, Mousewhisker, who was charming and kind. Even worse, she had to have her ceremony when it was raining. Hazelpaw had gotten so lost in thought that when she snapped back into reality, Juniperpaw, Rainpaw and Lavenderpaw were already getting their warrior names.

"Lavenderpaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Lavenderdawn. StarClan honors your kindness and effort." Foxstar mewed.

"Junipersnout! Raincloud! Lavenderdawn!" This time, everybody cheered. Watching in frustration and jealousy, Beetlepaw pressed against Hazelpaw's side.

"Congratulations on becoming an apprentice!" Beetlepaw mewed.

Hazelpaw just stared at her paws. "I wish we became apprentices together." Hazelpaw muttered.

"At least you *are* an apprentice!"

. . .

"Cindertail's having her kits now!" Ashfoot yowled, panicking, while

Lilyheart rushed over to Cindertail, with Moonpaw dashing out of camp.

After getting Cindertail into the medicine den, every cat was forced out, including Ashfoot. Moonpaw came running back with clean moss, which Hazelpaw couldn't understand, because with the snow covering everything, there wasn't any moss to be seen. From outside, Hazelpaw could hear Cindertail wailing in pain as she had her kits. Finally, the wailing slowly eased and Ashfoot went inside. In the medicine den were six beautiful kits; brown, two dark gray, ginger and white. The odd thing was, the two gray kits weren't moving while the other four were squirming around. Moonpaw started pumping the chest of one of the limp kits, and even though Lilyheart was obviously confused, he started doing the same, while Cindertail and Ashfoot watched anxiously. After a few heartbeats, the cat that Moonpaw was taking care of took its first breath. Hazelpaw couldn't believe her eyes. *Is that what I looked like when I was born?* Cindertail started licking the surviving gray kit, while Ashfoot licked the white kit.

"Congratulations Cindertail!" Lilyheart mewed, "You have four toms and a she-cat."

"I'll name them..." Cindertail mewed, "the ginger tom Firekit, the brown tom Hollowkit, the white she-cat Frostkit, the black tom Meadowkit and..." Cindertail thought for a moment. "The small gray one Littlekit. Thank you, Moonpaw, for saving my son's life."

. . .

The nursery looked like it was going to explode, with all the cats crowded to see the five new kits. While Cindertail was telling everybody the names, Ashfoot told everybody what a wonderful job Moonpaw did. Burning with jealousy once again, Hazelpaw stomped off, when Sandpaw stopped her.

"Aren't you gonna see the kits?" Sandpaw asked, with suspicion in his eyes.

"It's too crowded." Hazelpaw lied. Lilyheart came running into the camp a second later, panicking.

"Rogues are attacking!"

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Oh no! One of the worst scenarios right after giving birth! Some people breaking into you're house!

Quote inspired by Moonkitty on You-Tube
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# Chapter 9

When Moonpaw dashed out of the medicine den from the news that she just heard, she went back in and sorted out the herbs, since if this was an attack, there would be injuries. Moonpaw could hear Foxstar giving out orders outside while Ashfoot tried to calm Cindertail down.

"Hawkclaw, Pineneedle, Jaypool, Pebblewing, Amberstorm and Lightstorm! Try to keep the rogues away from camp!" Foxstar yowled.

"Do I take Stormpaw with me?" Pineneedle asked.

"Yes, if you think he's ready." Foxstar replied, "Crowfur, Mousewhisker, Briarfang, Junipersnout, Longwing. Keep watch from outside the camp. Branchleap, Cindertail!" Branchleap came out from the warriors den as Cindertail looked up from her kits. "Protect the nursery with Ashfur. The rest of you, guard the camp!"

Dustpaw got into the medicine den, while Moonpaw was being told instructions by Lilyheart.

"You're a better fighter than me. If there's ever a signal that the rogues are coming into the medicine den, hide and attack them in surprise." Lilyheart mewed sternly. Moonpaw nodded. A shriek then sounded from outside.

"A tree's falling!" Mousewhisker yowled, "Get everybody out of camp!"

Almost immediately, Lilyheart snatched a mouthful of herbs, not caring which ones they were, and Moonpaw took some too. Dustpaw grabbed another mouthful and followed them. Dashing out of camp, dropping the herbs, Moonpaw realised that Berrystripe and the kits were asleep, unaware of the danger. Cindertail,

Branchleap and Ashfoot were trying to carry all five of the kits by themselves. *There aren't enough warriors noticing that!* Out of instincts, Moonpaw nudged Dustpaw and they both crashed into the nursery, and while Moonpaw picked up Meadowkit, Dustpaw picked up Hollowkit. Giving a thankful look, Cindertail, Branchleap and Ashfoot followed them out of camp. *Darkpelt's still in there!* Moonpaw saw the dark elder, trying to gently get her friend to wake up. Moonpaw got back into camp and yowled at Berrystripe.

"Get up, Berrystripe! A tree's falling!" Moonpaw hissed. When that didn't work, Moonpaw bit Berrystripe's tail. With a yelp, Berrystripe jumped up. The tree started to creak as rogues pushed the loosest tree with all their might. The rain weakened the roots of the tree so bad that the tree wasn't that hard to push. At that very moment, Moonpaw saw that there wasn't enough time to leave. Holding her breath, the three cats blocked their ears from the deathening crash of the trunk, accompanied with a cold wash of wind. The entrance of the elders den collapsed, and surprisingly, Moonpaw found herself to open her eyes uninjured, dirt sprinkling on her, with Darkpelt and Berrystripe with her in the dark den that seemed like it could collapse any second. Moonpaw could hear battle cries outside, along with Dustpaw trying to claw the dirt and stone covering the entrance to the elders den yelping.

"Moonpaw! Are you ok? Are you hurt? Is Darkpelt and Berrystripe ok?" Dustpaw wailed, just as he made a small hole. Moonpaw unsheathed her claws and made the hole larger, just enough to get Darkpelt and Berrystripe out. When they did leave, cats were battling everywhere. Lilyheart found a small place under the tree to treat the wounded. As Darkpelt and Berrystripe launched themselves into battle, Dustpaw had another idea.

"Let's go to the gorge!"

. . .

Sitting down, Moonpaw could still hear the yowls of pain from cats.

"Do you think they'll be ok back there?" Dustpaw asked.

"We should never doubt ShadowClan," Moonpaw replied, "we're full

of strong warriors! I bet a cat take *five* of those rogues single pawed!" Moonpaw paused for a second, then spoke again. "I wonder if Pebblewing is alright."

"She'll be fine! Never doubt out mother!"

"I'm just worried! I don't want her to die like our father!"

"That was from a monster, no cat can defeat a monster."

"What about Pounceleap and Dawnstorm? They're both are really stiff and are the oldest cats in the clan."

"You worry too much, Moonpaw!"

A flash of brown past Moonpaw all of the sudden, and the cat knocked Dustpaw off the cliff. On the corner of her eye, she could see her brother hanging on to a weak rock. The brown cat faced Moonpaw, and Moonpaw could see it was a tom. The tom launched at her, and Moonpaw dodged it quickly, also unsheathing her claws and swiping at the tom's ear, missing slightly. The tom clawed at Moonpaw's belly, but only managed to rip out fur. Moonpaw pounced at the rogue, but went down low and sliced the tom's belly making him yowl in surprise and pain. The rogue got back by pretending to go for Moonpaw's head, but instead zipped behind her, scratched her belly and pinned her down. Moonpaw saw this as a chance and made the tom's ear bleed.

"You're quite good at fighting for a medicine cat. Storm would really like you in her camp." The rogue hissed. Moonpaw glanced at her brother, who is too scared to even speak. While distracted, the rogue launched both paws at Moonpaw, but Moonpaw swiped her entire body against his hind legs, making the rogue slip on the snow and tumble down the gorge. Moonpaw heard a crack, and it hit her.

"Dustpaw!" She yowled, but it was too late. The rock Dustpaw hang on the snapped, and Dustpaw fell into the roaring water down in the gorge. All Moonpaw could do was watch. Anger filled her completely as she watched her brother disappear into the rushing currents below. Running out of the tunnel, she joined Lilyheart with the wounded just as a large tortoiseshell tom came. Unsheathing

their claws, ready to attack, the tom showed no sign of fear or fierceness. Only pleasing, and... passion?

"I'm not here to attack, only if needed." The tom said.

"What are you here for then?" Moonpaw hissed.

"You." Moonpaw was stunned. Her? The rogue could sense her confusion and continued, "I've watched you for the past few moons. You are a really talented medicine cat. You're good at fighting *and* good at herbs. You could really teach Forest a few things."

"You want to take my apprentice? You think we'll let you do that?" Lilyheart hissed, "Especially while there is greencough spreading through the Clans. You must be mouse-brained to think that you were going to take my apprentice."

"Fine then," the tom mewed, "I'll take her by force."

Enraged, Lilyheart clawed at the tortoiseshell, but the tom simply pounced on top of him and lunged at Moonpaw. Moonpaw sliced the rogue's chest, making him bleed, but the rogue showed no sign of pain or ease in movement and pinned Moonpaw to the ground, hitting her head on the ice cold tree, sprinkling snow on Moonpaw. Moonpaw felt pain soaring through her body as she felt herself passing out.

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*legasp* Moonpaw's being kidnapped! What shall she ever do?
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# Chapter 10

Keeping her eyes closed, Moonpaw felt like she wasn't in her den. Still tired though, she rolled over trying to get comfortable in the itchy moss. For a second, Moonpaw couldn't remember what had happened. Jumping up after realisation, Moonpaw started to panic. *Where in the name of StarClan am I? Is this the rogue's camp?* A brown tom entered the small den Moonpaw woke up in with a plump mouse in his jaws, and Moonpaw nearly jumped when she saw who it was. There wasn't any passion in his eyes like the tortoiseshell, only a blank expression. *That's the cat that killed Dustpaw! But I killed him! How?*

The tom saw how confused Moonpaw was, and dropped the mouse to speak.

"My name's Racoonweed. That fall wasn't very nice you know." Racoonweed meowed blankly. Moonpaw could see deep scars from the rocks that scratched into his fur. They looked like they weren't treated.

"You should eat. You're going to meet my leader soon." Racoonweed told Moonpaw, pushing the mouse towards her. Moonpaw ignored it, not having any appetite.

"What am I doing here? Why have you taken me from my Clan?" Moonpaw hissed, demanding answers. Racoonweed just ignored her and left the den. Angry, Moonpaw took a bite of the mouse. It tasted warm, despite it being leafbare. A tortoiseshell tom entered, and Moonpaw wasn't really surprised when she realised that it was the same tom that made her pass out.

"Greetings, Moonpaw," the tom mewed, still having the same passion glowing in his eyes. "My name is Storm." *That's the cat Racoonweed said would like me!* Moonpaw remembered, memories of Dustpaw's death flooding her mind.

"I've seen your talent," Storm continued, "I want you to join our

Clan. We call ourselves StormClan." *Why would I want to join your Clan? That goes against the warrior code!* Moonpaw wanted to say it out loud, but kept her jaw shut, trying to not show the hatred in her eyes. "We'll let you live here for a while, ok? You will be able to see how great it is." Storm brushed his tail against Moonpaw's back. Heading outside, Moonpaw saw that all the warriors looked well fed, but meanwhile with the elders, kits and queens, they all looked really skinny like they haven't eaten in days. Moonpaw noticed a small white kit taking a half-eaten mouse on the ground, when a larger blue-gray warrior pushed the kit aside and grabbed the mouse.

"This mouse is mine, Snowkit. I started eating it, I'm gonna finish eating it." The cat hissed, taking the already rotting mouse away. Stunned, Moonpaw glared at Storm wondering why he didn't stop that.

"What good will elders and kits do?" Storm mewed, "They don't fight. The warriors need to keep their strength up. You must fight for your food."

A gray she-cat landed beside Moonpaw, with the milk scent on her. *That must be a queen.* The she-cat looked desperate.

"Please, Cloudstrike!" The she-cat cried, "I just need a scrap of prey for my kits!"

"That shrew is *mine*. You have no permission whatsoever to take it!" Cloudstrike then bit the queen's throat, and the queen lay limp. Two kits came running out of a badly shaped den, wailing, "Mama! Mama!" They came to the dead queen's side.

"Leafkit, Wavekit, your mother was a traitor. Don't be like her or you both are next."

Moonpaw was too stunned to speak. Following Storm, they enter a tree trunk that looked like it had a leak as there was snow inside.

"This is the medicine den. Meet Forest." Storm mewed, pointing his tail to a brown and black she-cat. "Could you teach Forest some things about herbs? He's kind of stupid when it comes to them."

*Why be a medicine cat then?* Moonpaw thought, but started talking about ragwort without complaint.

After saying a lot of simple herbs like marigold, tansy, catmint, waterlily, and surprisingly, poppy seeds, Moonpaw turned to Storm. "I saw that Racoonweed had some bad scars that weren't treated. How come he didn't come here?"

"Treatment is for the weak." Storm replied.

"Then what's the point of a medicine den?"

"It's only used when one of our warriors or kits are at a near death situation."

"What about queens and elders?"

"Queens and elders are useless. Elders don't fight anymore, and all queens do is lay around fussing over their kits too much. They can take care of themselves."

Staying silent, Moonpaw couldn't help but feel bad for the cats that that it was the scent of blood from prey, foxes, beavers, and even cats. A dark gray she-cat walked in front of Moonstorm, and she had a lot of scars on her.

"Hi, I'm Owlclaw. We're supposed to go hunting together." The she-cat mewed. Nodding, Moonstorm followed Owlclaw towards the forest surrounding the camp. Moonstorm didn't recognise the land at all, but was thankful that it was a pine forest. Trying to sniff out some prey, Moonstorm was able to make out a vole. Crouching, she tasted the wind. It was going upwind, which meant it was ok to hunt. Slowly going towards the vole, Moonstorm finally leaped and caught the vole and killed it with a killing bite. Sitting up and facing Owlclaw, Moonstorm realised that Owlclaw had caught a small mouse and was eating it already. Looking up at Moonstorm, Owlclaw mewed, "It's ok, as long as we bring at least three pieces of prey back, we'll survive."

Moonstorm didn't like how she said survive, but just tried to smell even the tiniest scent of prey when she made out the scent of a

lizard. Creeping towards it, Moonstorm also caught it. Owlclaw looked impressed.

"I've only caught those pests a few times. They don't taste as good as a thrush, but prey is prey." she mewed. Owlclaw then spotted a rabbit and tried to pounce towards it, but the rabbit noticed her and dashed away, right towards Moonstorm. Moonstorm caught it and bit into its throat. Owlclaw looked disappointed, but let Moonstorm keep the rabbit as it was her prey since she technically caught it. After hunting, Moonstorm came back with the same vole, lizard and rabbit along with another plump sparrow, while Owlclaw came back with a frog, two small mouse, a fat shrew and a rabbit.

"Alright, follow me." Owlclaw hissed, "When you return to camp, you need to wait for the other hunters to return, wait for Storm to leap down Highrock, then lay the prey in front of him when your name is called. It doesn't need to be neat. Wait for him to choose his prey, then his deputy. When he lifts his tail and flicks it, that means the warriors can have the rest." After a moment, she added, "Be cautious when the warriors are choosing prey. It can get a bit messy."

Back at camp, Moonstorm did exactly as she was told. She sat still as she waited for the other hunters to arrive, then Storm leaped down from what wasn't a tall rock, but a pile of bones made from prey bones and cat bones. Storm started calling out names, but when he called out the name Dogface, a skinny, beige tom with a crooked face slowly came forward with a strong fear-scent on him. He was only carrying a scrawny frog that wouldn't even be able to half fill a hungry cat. Moonstorm remembered what Owlclaw told her. *As long as we bring at least three pieces of prey back, we'll survive.* When Storm saw it, he was furious.

"Dogface, it's been three sunrises. You still failed to bring back at least three pieces of prey. Not even anything plump. You must accept your fate." Storm padded towards Dogface with unsheathed claws, and Dogface tried to run, but a couple of scrawny cats blocked his way. Storm leaped onto Dogface and clawed his belly really deep, so deep that Dogface's guts got ripped out. The beige tom cried out, twisting in pain. He slowly stopped twitching and lay limp. Storm carried Dogface's body behind Highrock where none of

the cats could see. Storm then came back and called out more names. He finally came to Moonstorm. Moonstorm came forward and dumped her prey onto the large pile the other cats made. She looked up at Storm hopefully, and nearly sighed in relief when she saw approval and proudness in his eyes. Padding back, Moonstorm waited for Storm to finish calling out the few leftover names. Some of the names were weird, like Hayoa, and black tabby tom, and some sounded like kittypet names, like Kat, which was a white she-cat with odd pink tips on her ears, tail and paws. After the name calling, Storm then sniffed the huge pile and dipped his head into it, pulling out the same sparrow and rabbit Moonstorm caught. Moonstorm wondered how he knew which ones were hers, then remembered she must have left her ShadowClan scent on the prey. A cream-coloured tabby then came forward, and Moonstorm assumed it was the deputy. *That must be Ivytail,* Moonstorm thought, recalling the time when Owlclaw told her the deputy's name during hunting. Ivytail picked out a thrush and shrew. Expecting for Storm to flick his tail, Moonstorm was surprised when Storm instead called out her name.

"Moonstorm, go on. Grab some prey." He mewed. Stepping forward cautiously, Moonstorm quickly picked out a large squirrel, then stepped back. Storm then flicked his tail, and the cats launched themselves into the prey pile. Some elders and kits tried to get some but were only thrown out. Moonstorm had a huge mouse flung into her face, and it landed in front of her. A fat black cat tried to take it, but Moonstorm lashed her claw at the cat's face, hissing. *You've already eaten enough by the looks of it!*

Taking the prey to a corner of the camp, Moonstorm saw a litter of skinny kits huddled near an olive tree. Moonstorm gave the kits her mouse, and they gobbled it down gratefully. Moonstorm went back to her corner to eat the squirrel. She was glad to not have Storm staring at her.

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Oh. Storm's a pervert. Welp.
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# Chapter 11

Beetlepaw could see the bright moon above him as the gathering started, and he sat next to Hazelpaw.

"StarClan has been kind to WindClan this leaf-bare. There aren't as many rabbits than from leaf-fall, but there is enough to feed the Clan." Shrewstar announced. "Although, greencough is spreading and there isn't enough catmint to cure it."

"ThunderClan can give you some catmint, we have plenty!" Fogberry yowled. All the cats looked at Foxstar, waiting for him to speak.

"The rogues came back." Foxstar mewed. Wide eyes surrounded Beetlepaw, as they heard the news. "They pushed a tree into our camp. We lost Moonpaw and Dustpaw from the fight." Gasps of shock sounded as Beetlepaw remembered what had happened a moon ago. The tortoiseshell rogue was holding Moonpaw by her scruff, telling the other rogues to retreat. Lilyheart was still chasing them, yowling Moonpaw's name, desperately trying to catch up, with some other warriors by her tail. In the end, the rogues got out of sight, and the entire Clan sat in vigil for both of them. Glancing at Pebblewing, Beetlepaw could see that she was still devastated from the loss of her two kits.

"Other than that, there has been a slight shortage of prey in ShadowClan, but nobody has starved." Foxstar continued.

"We mourn your loss, Foxstar." Shrewstar mewed, "Does anybody anything else to say?"

"Yellowshade had had a vision!" Puddlestar yowled. Everybody looked at her. "StarClan has told Yellowshade that there are traitors in every Clan." Murmurs came from around the Great Oak. *I don't*

*know who to trust anymore!* Beetlepaw started to panic a little.

"This gathering is at an end." Oakstar yowled.

Coming back from the gathering, Beetlepaw was lost in thought, when suddenly a cat grabbed him by the scruff and yanked him backwards, and Beetlepaw saw a monster dash pass.

"Beetlepaw, what are you doing?" Mousewhisker hissed, her fur bristled. "You nearly got hit by a monster!"

"Sorry Mousewhisker," Beetlepaw apologised, "I was lost in thought." Beetlepaw thought that he saw Hazelpaw smile with triumph, but she faced the other way when he looked at her. Finally getting to the apprentice den, Beetlepaw easily fell asleep. Waking up again, Beetlepaw found himself in camp in front of the fresh-kill pile, fully restocked despite it being leaf-bare. Moonpaw was entering camp. Moonpaw! Getting up, Beetlepaw hurriedly dashed to Moonpaw, only to stop when the tortoiseshell tom attacked her, clawing her throat. Moonpaw fell limp, with blood staining her fur and the ground.

. . .

Waking up with a start, Mousewhisker was beside Beetlepaw.

"Beetlepaw, we're going to remark the ThunderClan borders." She mewed. Getting up, Beetlepaw padded to the border, and sprayed his scent on it as Mousewhisker did the same. Suddenly, a rustle came from a bush on ThunderClan's side of the border, and Deersong appeared.

"Please help, three dogs are attacking the camp!" Deersong yowled desperately.

"Beetlepaw, go to camp to fetch more cats!" Mousewhisker told Beetlepaw, as she followed Deersong across the thunderpath. Dashing back to camp, Beetlepaw crashed through the thorn barrier like lightning.

"Dogs are attacking the ThunderClan camp!" He yowled.

Coming back with Foxstar, Lavenderdawn, Twigfang, Rosefire, Raincloud and Lilyheart, they entered the attack, where three dogs were attacking. *ThunderClan looks like they're losing!* Beetlepaw saw Mousewhisker, trying to claw at one of the dogs. Joining his mentor, Beetlepaw got on top of the dog and lashed at it's head. The dog yowled and flung Beetlepaw off, and he ended up hitting his head on a tree badly.

. . .

*What happened?* Beetlepaw wondered, opening his eyes just to swallow ThunderClan scent. Jumping up, Beetlepaw found himself in ThunderClan medicine den, with Mousewhisker beside him. *Her tail!* Beetlepaw yelped at the sight of blood, with Mousewhisker's half-tail now.

"Ow! Be careful with it, Fogberry!" Mousewhisker yelped, "Oh, Beetlepaw, you're awake."

"The dog bit his tail off." Fogberry mewed.

"Yeah, and now I can't even balance properly!" Mousewhisker added scornfully.

"Fogberry, we're out of cobwebs!" Lilyheart called from the other side of the medicine den. The den looked stuffed with badly injured cats, and Beetlepaw could make a glimpse of other cats outside that weren't as harmed.

"We'll have to make do with just dock and chervil for now." Fogberry mewed.

"We're out of that too! And it's leaf-bare, there aren't any fresh herbs around anywhere." Lilyheart replied. "Beetlepaw, would you be okay to try to find some dock or chervil with Sandpaw and Hazelpaw? Dock has large leaves, smells and tastes tangy while chervil is a sweet smelling plant with large fern-like leaves, with white flowers. Grab some cobweb as well if you find any. If it's not completely fresh, it's fine."

Nodding, Beetlepaw headed out of ThunderClan camp. Looking

around, he spotted Hazelpaw and Sandpaw with what looked like stale dock.

"Hey, scaredy-mouse kit!" Sandpaw called, "I saw some chervil over there! Go get it!"

Ignoring the fact that Sandpaw still calls him 'scaredy-mouse kit', Beetlepaw saw some large fern-like leaves with white flowers, like the description Lilyheart gave him about the chervil. Getting closer, the plant had a slight sweet scent on it, but it was stale. *This will have to do.* Nipping off a few leaves, Beetlepaw headed back to the medicine den, then skidded to a halt when he saw two cats on ThunderClan territory. *That's Reedspeckle!* Beetlepaw recognised the WindClan cat. *What's he doing on ThunderClan territory?* Beetlepaw padded closer, desperately trying to recognise the over cat. His eyes widened as he saw who it was. *That's one of the cats that attacked us!* Reedspeckle turned his head, and spotted Beetlepaw. Without hesitation, Reedspeckle jumped onto Beetlepaw, pinning him down, making him choke on some crumbled chervil.

"Listen, ShadowClan cat. You will tell nobody about this." Reedspeckle hissed. "If I hear that you told somebody, I will be the last cat you see."

Beetlepaw nodded, panicking. Reedspeckle let him go, and Beetlepaw dashed back to the ThunderClan camp, just making out what Reedspeckle said after.

"Come on, Ivytail. Let's go before any other cat sees us." he mewed.

Finally getting back to the ThunderClan camp, Beetlepaw still felt uneasy. Giving the chervil to Fogberry, Beetlepaw couldn't focus properly.

"This will have to do for now," Fogberry mewed, "thanks Beetlepaw."Beetlepaw couldn't help but think about what Reedspeckle told him.

*Should I tell somebody? What if he finds out? No, I can't be a scaredy-mouse kit!*

"Beetlepaw!"

Fogberry's mew made him jump. "I've called you so many times! Are you feeling alright?" Fogberry asked.

"Oh— yeah, I'm fine." Beetlepaw could see Lilyheart approaching from the corner of his eye.

"Fernreed died, and Oakstar lost a life." Lilyheart mewed solemnly, then added, "He tried protecting Fernreed. It must be hard losing a mate."

Not wanting to hear anymore, Beetlepaw went out again to get some fresh air. Heading to Sunning Rocks, Beetlepaw laid down there, feeling the warmth of the sun on his pelt. Opening his eyes, Beetlepaw saw Ivytail glaring at him, like telling him to not tell anybody or else. Dashing away again, Beetlepaw bumped into Foxstar.

"We're going to bury Fernreed. We'd like you to help." Foxstar mewed.

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Extra note: I will not be answering any questions that are going to be mentioned in the future!

:D

And yes, Beetlepaw still gets bullied.

Also I know that this is supposed to be about Moonpaw and only focus on Moonpaw, but my dumb brain forgot about this until I was- like- finished planning out half the story. :P
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# Chapter 12

In the rogue camp, Moonstorm exits Storm's den, and nearly gags at the amount of crow-food on the floor. *Just because it's green-leaf again doesn't mean you start collecting this mich prey and waste it at the end! I just want to go home.* Storm then got to Moonstorm's side.

"Hello, Moonstorm. You don't need to go hunting today." Storm mewed. When he left, Moonstorm sighed. It had been two moons since she got captured, and she still wasn't used to the conditions of the Clan. She then realised that Storm had leaped up on top of the bone pile.

"All cats sit around Highrock to hear what I have to tell you." Storm yowled. *Those aren't even close to the correct words!* Moonstorm thought. This was going to be her first experience watching a ceremony here. As cats gathered, Moonpaw could see that some of the elders were sitting at the very back, far away from the warriors.

"Cats of StormClan," Storm continued, "it is time to make a new apprentice. Mudkit will now become Mudpaw and be taught the ways of a warrior. Esteen will teach you." No cat looked interested in any of this, and no cat cheered. "By the rule, each apprentice must either bring back a plump piece of prey, or two prey." Mudpaw nodded. "Warriors, you may now hunt for StormClan."

All of the cats left immediately, looking more excited for the hunt than the ceremony. Moonstorm wished the best of luck for the new apprentice, hoping that he would do his succeed in his task.

When the warriors finally returned, Storm started calling out names. When he reached Mudpaw, Moonstorm held her breath. The apprentice only had a scrawny mouse on him.

"Mudpaw, I will let you go for today. This is your first day out, so

you have an exception." Storm mewed sternly. Forcing herself to relax, Storm then grabbed his prey, a fat sparrow and a shrew. Ivytail then grabbed his prey, a vole and a thrush. Moonstorm then grabbed hers, carrying a little extra as always for the kits. She grabbed a thrush, rabbit and squirrel before going to her corner. Moonstorm gave the squirrel to the kits.

Finally after eating, Moonstorm was about to get up when Storm approached.

"Moonstorm. Would you like to join StormClan as a full warrior?" Storm asked.

Moonstorm didn't hesitate to reply. "No, Storm. I would like to go back to ShadowClan where my family is."

Storm seemed a little stunned by this, as his fur began to bristle. "You've lived here for two entire moons. Surely you can see how great it is here? You have all the prey you want, nobody is guaranteed to betray you and you have so much prey in the forest even in leafbare!"

"You mean, the warriors have all the prey that they want while the elders and kits starve to death, everybody are cruel, selfish cats who want all the prey in the forest for themselves and there is so much prey hunted that everybody just eats some of it and leaves it to turn to crow-food? This place is terrible! You literally kill cats over the smallest things!"

"How *dare* you! Brambleclaw! Hawkwing! Take Moonstorm to my den and *don't* let her out!"

As the two cats approached her, Moonstorm embraced herself for a fight, but instead was easily pinned down and dragged towards the den. Landing in the nest, Moonstorm attempted to get out, but the two cats just shoved her back. Laying in the nest, Moonstorm felt her eyes stinging. *I've got to get out of here.*

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Oh wow, not only is Storm a pervert but he also acts like a spoiled
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brat who thinks everybody loves him and always agrees with him!

# Chapter 13

"There's never been this much prey around!" Echopaw squealed, as the apprentices exited the apprentice den to find the fresh-kill pile full. It has been five moons since the dog attack, and Hazelpaw realised that Lilyheart was getting old and sick. *If only Moonpaw was here, she would treat Lilyheart so that he was better.* Quickly, Hazelpaw shook away the thought. *No! Moonpaw is still a bad cat.* Hawkclaw then stood in front of her.

"Hazelpaw, you've always been good friend with Sandpaw," Hawkclaw mewed. *Not anymore,* Hazelpaw told herself.

"I want you to work with Sandpaw for his assessment. I'm sure you both will be fine together. Just make sure to be back by sunset."

Sandpaw was by his side, Hazelpaw realised, but he looked disappointed. Hazelpaw felt disgusted. *You should be glad to work with me!* After they left, they didn't talk to each other. Trying to sniff out prey, Hazelpaw could scent a lizard. Sandpaw could smell it too, and signalled Hazelpaw. He signalled that Hazelpaw would attempt to catch it, and if it failed, Sandpaw would get it. Trying to leap at the lizard, it darted away, straight to Sandpaw. Instead of making a graceful leap, Sandpaw slipped on a leaf and fell over as the lizard dodged him and escaped into the bushes. With a huff, Sandpaw left the area and Hazelpaw chased after him, trying to keep as silent as possible. They both were eventually able to get the scent of a mouse. Sandpaw immediately launched himself at it, and killed it with a killing bite.

Returning to Hawkclaw, they returned with the mouse, a shrew, a rabbit and a frog. Hawkclaw looked impressed, then excused himself and headed for Foxstar's den. After a few moments, Foxstar leaped up to Highrock.

"All cats gather beneath Highrock for a Clan meeting!" He yowled.

As cats gathered, Hazelpaw expected Sandpaw to feel nervous, but there wasn't a trace of fear on him. "It is, once again, my duty to assign a new warrior. Sandpaw." As Sandpaw stepped forward, he sat up straight with pride. "You have passed your assessment without effort. Sandpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Sandpaw replied.

"Then from this moment on, you will be known as Sandclaw. StarClan honors your bravery and skill, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

"Sandclaw! Sandclaw!"

"Sandclaw!" Hazelpaw joined in.

After the ceremony, Hazelpaw headed to Sandclaw. "Sandclaw, congratulations!" She mewed. Instead of responding, Sandclaw just padded away pretending that he didn't hear Hazelpaw. He headed to Lavenderdawn with a smile on his face.

Lavenderdawn! Um... I have something to tell you." Sandclaw stuttered, sounding nervous.

"Sandclaw, what do you need?" Lavenderdawn asked.

"I... I really liked you for a long time. I've always thought we might become mates one day."

"Sandclaw... I've felt the same way for you as well, ever since you were a kit. Sure you've made bad mistakes in the past, but you seem like you regret them."

Hazelpaw felt as if the ground had disappeared beneath her. *Sandclaw never told me that he liked Lavenderdawn! But I suppose I never told him who I liked either.* Hazelpaw always liked Sandclaw when was a kit, and always felt the way Sandclaw felt to Lavenderdawn. Now that Sandclaw was mates with Lavenderdawn, Hazelpaw was furious. *Lavenderdawn stole Sandclaw from me!* Stomping off to the apprentice den, Hazelpaw slumped into her nest, missing Sandclaw's warmth against her, when Beetlepaw came

and laid down beside her. *At least I'll still be warm*. Drifting off to sleep, she could just imagine Lavenderdawn being sloppish to Sandclaw. *I can't wait until I'm a warrior. That way I'll be able to sleep with Sandclaw again.*

. . .

The very next morning, Hazelpaw woke up to Swiftsap hovering above her.

"Hazelpaw, we need to go patrol RiverClan borders." Swiftsap mewed.

Getting up, Hazelpaw walked with Swiftsap. It was, surprisingly, going to be her first time patrolling RiverClan borders. *This was the place Moonpaw got her scar.* Hazelpaw thought as they arrived. Hazelpaw sprayed her scent on the border, and then saw a patch of white fur from the corner of her eye. *That's Pebblewing! She's with a cat.* Squinting her eyes to try to make out who the cat was, Hazelpaw's eyes widened in shock. *That's one of the cats that was in the attack!* "Swiftsap, why is Pebblewing with one of the cats that attacked our camp?" Hazelpaw asked her mentor, pointing her tail towards the cats. Hazelpaw saw Swiftsap's fur bristle as he also saw them.

"We must report this to Foxstar." Swiftsap mewed. Dashing back to camp, Hazelpaw was panting when she arrived. She could see Foxstar still in camp, scolding Meadowkit and Littlekit for trying to sneak out of the camp.

"Foxstar!" Swiftsap panted, "We saw Pebblewing with one of the cats that attacked our camp."

Foxstar's fur also began to bristle when he heard this. "We'll wait for her to return. I'll talk to her when she gets back."

Hazelpaw sat by the fresh-kill pile, eating a vole when Pebblewing arrived. Foxstar looked sternly at her.

"Swiftsap and Hazelpaw reported that you were with one of the rogues that attacked our camp at RiverClan border. Is this true?" He

hissed. Pebblewing looked taken back at this.

"What? No, I would never!" Pebblewing cried.

"Then why were you sighted with that cat?"

"Foxstar, how could you assume that I was with the rogues that *killed* my kits? I was just taking a walk around the ShadowClan borders, I have no idea about this rogue!"

"That is true. Why would she be with those rogues that killed her kits?" Dawnstorm rasped from the elders den. Murmurs of agreement surrounded her.

"Alright," Foxstar sighed, "but from now on, no cat is to go anywhere outside of camp without anybody knowing."

"Foxstar, do you really believe that RiverClan fox-dung? ShadowClan only has loyal warriors!" Cloverfeather gasped.

"I'm just making precautions." Foxstar mewed. Despite the few mutters of disagreement, Foxstar dismissed everybody, and Hazelpaw went back to the RiverClan border to finish marking the borders, not bothering to tell Swiftsap. While she was doing that, she saw Sandclaw's cream-coloured pelt among the trees, and it looked as if he was hunting. Bounding up to him, Hazelpaw hoped that she would be able to show him that she was a better mate than Lavenderdawn.

Hazelpaw tried to put on a cute face, and mewed, "Hi, Sandclaw! How—"

"Fox-dung!" Sandclaw cut her off, clearly annoyed. "Hazelpaw, I'm surprised that frog didn't even *hear* you coming! Couldn't you see that I was hunting? Don't distract me or scare off all the prey in the lake!"

"You're not my mentor! Don't tell me what to do!"

"Hazelpaw!" Swiftsap's hiss made Hazelpaw jump. "First you go out of camp without letting anybody know, and then you stop a warrior from hunting! You are going back to camp right now. And

tomorrow, I want you check ticks for the elders, get prey for them, and clean any nests that needs to be cleaned."

Hazelpaw was stunned. *This is so unfair!* Hazelpaw was burning with anger. *I didn't even do anything wrong! It's Sandclaw's fault that he was disrespectful to me.* Hazelpaw paused for a second, before thinking, *I wonder what Moonpaw is doing in the Dark Forest right now, where she obviously deserves to be.*

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Just Hazelpaw being her unusual self again.

Also, please do not ask,

"Why are some of the elders not dead yet?" Or something like that.

I just realised now and I ain't changing it.

I don't focus on time lapses, lol.
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# Chapter 14

Laying down in Storm's nest, Moonstorm could smell Storm coming in, with a strong scent of a mouse with him. Moonstorm's mouth started to water from this, as ever since she was captured five moons ago, she never got fed properly. Storm still slept with her, but Moonstorm didn't think much about it since it was his den after all. When Storm entered, he was holding a small mouse in his jaws and dropped it beside Moonstorm, then laid down beside her. Moonstorm took a few bites out of the mouse, swallowed it, then looked up at Storm.

"Why do you still sleep with me? Why don't you just kill me like you do to all those other cats who 'betray' you?" Moonstorm asked.

Storm then replied with something that shocked her. "Because I love you."

"What?"

"Don't you love me back?"

"No! And I never will! Why would I ever love such a cruel cat?"

Storm suddenly seemed to feel crestfallen by this, but his grief quickly turned into anger. "I've treated you as best as I could, and this is how you repay me?" He then picked up the remains of the mouse and whisked out of the den without waiting for a reply. Moonstorm then heard him talking to somebody.

"Amethyst, when are the Clan cats coming?" Storm asked.

"Not long, Storm." Amethyst promised. Moonstorm crept forward a little bit to see what was happening. At that very moment, she scented all four Clans. Then four cats appeared, one from every Clan. Thrushthorn, Reedspeckle, Breezewing and even Pebblewing. *Were they also captured?* Moonstorm's hopes started to rise. The

entire Clan probably thought that she was dead, and she can reassure Pebblewing that she was ok. They would also be able to make a plan together on how to escape, as long as they could reach Moonstorm. But what they did made Moonstorm fill with rage.

"Welcome, all of you. Anything to share?" Storm asked.

"I've been hunting at night secretly and made WindClan have a shortage of prey." Thrushthorn replied

"The dog attack went perfectly well." Reedspeckle mewed.

"RiverClan's medicine cat has unfortunately received a vision about us." Breezewing hissed irritatibally.

"No cat is allowed outside of camp without any cat knowing anymore, because I was accidentally spotted with Darkfeather on the RiverClan border." Pebblewing reported.

Moonstorm didn't want to hear anymore. *They're with these rogues! Even my own mother! She's with the cats that killed one of her kits!* Moonstorm immediately jumped out of Storm's den and flung herself onto Pebblewing.

"How could you!?" Moonstorm yowled. "I thought you were my mother! I thought you were a true ShadowClan warrior!" Moonstorm looked into Pebblewing's eyes, and to her surprise, saw that she had guilt and sadness in them, but ignored it. "Your entire Clan trusted you, you traitor!"

Pebblewing suddenly kicked Moonstorm off, and Moonstorm got dragged back into Storm's den. *I'm getting out of here tonight. If I ever get back to the Clans, I'm revealing the truth of all four of those cats.*

. . .

At night, Moonstorm checked to see if Storm was awake. When she sees that he isn't, she carefully gets up and started to carefully walk to the entrance, making sure she puts down each paw slowly. Two new guards were assigned tonight, and those cats were Liverpool and Bluestone. When she was close enough, Moonstorm launched herself out of the den, and Bluestone yelped loudly in surprise,

waking Storm. Moonstorm kept on running towards the pine forest, but eventually Storm caught up to her. Lashing at her, Storm missed Moonstorm's undamaged eye by just a tail-length, and Moonstorm then lashed at his throat and made it bleed. It wasn't enough to kill him immediately, but if he didn't seek treatment, he would die from blood loss. Moonstorm then turned around and batted at Bluestone, and kicked Liverpool off his legs at the same time, then bit down on his throat, and heard a snap. Letting go, Moonstorm dashed into the pine forest with Bluestone on her tail. Spotting a slim gorge, Moonstorm leaped over it and kept on running, and didn't stop until her legs were about to collapse. She turned around, and the gray-blue she-cat was nowhere to be seen. *She must have not been able to cross the gorge.* In front of her, Moonstorm saw tunnel, and went through it. Shortly after, Moonstorm saw that the tunnel ended at a den that reaked with badger scent, but it was stale. *It must be abandoned*. Moonpaw could see slightly that there was a nest that the badger used to sleep in, and Moonstorm slumped onto the nest and drifted to sleep.

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She escaped! Woohoo! But will she return to the Clans?
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# Chapter 15

"Lilyheart has greencough!"

The news rang through camp like lightning. *StarClan save us.* Beetlepaw begged.

Lavenderdawn and Sandclaw's kits, Berrykit, Rowankit and Volekit, came into the nursery and Lavenderdawn is still worried they might catch greencough. On the very first day of leaf-bare, Stormpaw and Crowfur got greencough, while Brownmouse, Berrystripe and Branchleap had whitecough, which could lead to greencough. To make matters worse, the sickness particularly spread through the entire camp, and half of the Clan has greencough. Now their medicine cat has greencough. Beetlepaw's clanmates were panicking all around him.

*If only Moonpaw was here. We would still have a medicine cat to take care of us*. Beetlepaw thought. Lilyheart had found a few leaves of catmint last sunrise and gave them to Echostrike, who was in the worse condition, though she had made no progress.

"Beetlepaw," Ashfoot mewed, "could you go with Hawkclaw to RiverClan to ask for catmint? Try to hunt on the way as well." Ashfoot made a sad glance to the empty fresh-kill pile. The last hunt had came back with little prey, but a quarter of that prey had maggots in them.

Since Mousewhisker got greencough, Hawkclaw had to be Beetlepaw's mentor until she recovered.

Nodding, Beetlepaw turned to see Hawkclaw behind him. They both left camp and started heading towards the RiverClan border. When they got there, they saw two RiverClan cats already waiting on the other side of the Thunderpath. They were Stormpaw and Shellclaw.

"Oh, thank StarClan, we've been sitting here for ages!" Shellclaw yowled.

"Do you have any catmint you can spare?" Stormpaw asked. "We have none left, and there's greencough in our Clan, and it's the same with all the other Clans."

Beetlepaw's tail drooped. "We were going to you for the same reason."

"When is this going to end?" Hawkclaw asked himself.

"Only StarClan knows." Shellclaw mewed solemnly.

"We'll see you again at the gathering, right?"

"If we don't catch greencough until then."

While they were walking back, Beetlepaw made out the scent of a toad. Dropping into a hunting crouch and following the scent, Beetlepaw crept closer to the toad. Behind him, Hawkclaw didn't dare to move a whisker while he was focusing. When he was close enough, Beetlepaw finally pounced and got the toad under his paws.

Approaching the camp, Beetlepaw thought something was off. *Fox!* There was a yowl from the camp, and when Beetlepaw and Hawkclaw peeked into camp, a full grown fox was attacking, with a lot of warriors trying to fend it off, but was quite obviously failing because of the huge lack of warriors, since nearly all of the healthy cats were out hunting. As Hawkclaw jumped into battle, Beetlepaw dropped his toad and dashed around the pine forest calling for help, hoping that the patrols would hear.

"Help! Anybody? A fox is attacking our camp!" He yowled desperately.

Almost immediately, a vole dashed out from a nearby bush and skidded past Beetlepaw, and Ashfoot's head popped up behind the bush, along with Icefur, Longwing and Pineneedle. They ran without a word towards their camp, and Beetlepaw went around the territory again, hoping to find more cats. Eventually he found Sandclaw stalking.

"Sandclaw!" Beetlepaw yowled.

A mouse launched out of the grass, and Sandclaw looked back at Beetlepaw annoyed.

"You know it's leaf-bare! Prey is scarce! Think about that before you scare all the prey from around the lake!" Sandclaw hissed.

"But a fox is attacking our camp!"

"A fox is what?" Sandclaw almost looked guilty for screaming at an apprentice about prey when their entire Clan was in danger. "Go back to camp. I'll get the rest of my patrol."

Nodding, Beetlepaw ran as fast as he could, and when he got there, it didn't look as good as he hoped. ShadowClan is losing! Due to greencough, there are half the amount of warriors to fight the fox, and the lack of prey gives the remaining warriors not enough strength to do it.

"Beetlepaw!" Foxstar called. "Get ThunderClan! Quickly!"

Beetlepaw was almost out of energy by now, but he knew that if he wanted his Clan to be safe, he would have to hold on a little longer.

Getting to the Thunderpath, Beetlepaw looked for monsters. When he saw there were none in sight, Beetlepaw launched himself across not daring to open his eyes until he made it across. Beetlepaw ran straight towards the ThunderClan camp, until he came across a patrol who were staring at him with great suspicion in their eyes.

"Oh, has ShadowClan been so weak lately that they chose to steal prey from ThunderClan?" Beetlepaw recognised Ginger, a kittypet that ThunderClan welcomed in. "Is this an invasion? Where are the others?"

"Ginger, stop. He's just an apprentice, and he looks terrified." A black she-cat Beetlepaw never seen before mewed.

"Please help, the ShadowClan camp is being attacked by a fox!" Beetlepaw blurted out.

"Ginger, go get more cats." The she-cat meowed. "Alright, let's go."

Back at ShadowClan, Beetlepaw launched himself onto the fox's head, determined not to faint this time. The fox flicked him off, the Beetlepaw landed on his feet. He tried to aim for the fox's chest, but accidentally collided with Jaypool and they both fell to the ground. Suddenly, ThunderClan cats washed into camp, and they attacked the fox with ShadowClan. The fox started to realise it wasn't going to win and fled off towards the border. Foxstar looks at Oakstar and dipped his head as thanks.

"I know you've all done a lot," Foxstar mewed, "but could your medicine cat help with the wounded? Our medicine cat has greencough."

"Of course, Foxstar. Dawncloud will stay with you." Oakstar replied."Think of it as returning the favour for you guys helping us with the dogs."

*That's who that cat was!* Beetlepaw thought, as the same black she-cat stayed behind as ThunderClan left.

After waiting a while, Fogberry and Dawncloud came out.

"I'm sorry, but Echostrike died from shock of the fox attack." Fogberry announced. Gasps of shock came out, then turned into sad murmurs. Beetlepaw heard Moonpaw being mentioned, but couldn't make out what the cat said.

. . .

"Every cat old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath Highrock for a Clan meeting!" Foxstar yowled.

As cats gathered near dusk, Beetlepaw settled beside Hazelpaw.

"As you all know, ShadowClan is suffering from the lack of catmint." Foxstar mewed. "Thankfully, Lilyheart has had a vision of where we can find catmint."

Yowls of happiness sounded, and Foxstar raised his tail for silence.

"It is a long travel, far from the lake. We will need to talk about this to the other Clans for this journey."

"Why should our business be other Clans' business?" Briarfang hissed.

"Lilyheart's vision has told him that the other Clans will need to be part of this journey."

"Well then we should leave for the gathering now, it's nearly time!" Ashfoot meowed.

"Yes, Briarfang, Hollowpaw, Icefur, Littlepaw, Mousewhisker, Beetlepaw, Swiftsap, Hazelpaw and Sandclaw."

When they all reached the gathering, Beetlepaw realised they were the last Clan to arrive. Sitting down, he could see Shrewstar about to speak.

"Cats of all Clans, welcome to the gathering." Shrewstar boomed. "Who would like to start?"

"I will, thank you Shrewstar." Oakstar mewed. "ThunderClan-"

Oakstar's mew was cut off short as a RiverClan cat yowled from the crowd. "Are we just going to ignore the vision the medicine cats had?"

The leaders looked at eachother, and Oakstar continued.

"Yes, about the vision. The medicine cats have been told that each Clan must send three cats each towards the sunrise. They must continue until they reach a two-leg place, and that's where they will find the catmint."

. . .

Beetlepaw woke up as a ray of sunshine hit his pelt, and when he stepped out of the apprentices den, he saw Foxstar on Highrock once again.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath Highrock for a Clan meeting!" Foxstar yowled.

Almost immediately, ShadowClan streamed into the clearing.

"As you all were informed, I must choose three cats to go to the journey, although I haven't picked the cats who will go."

"I volunteer!" Lightstorm yowled.

"Alright, Lightstorm will go."

"Would it be ok if Hazelpaw and I go?" Swiftsap asked. Hazelpaw looked at her mentor in shock and annoyance.

*She clearly doesn't want to go*. Beetlepaw thought.

"It would be a good lesson on how to communicate well. It'll help Hazelpaw be a better warrior." Swiftsap continued.

"Yes, I agree." Foxstar meowed. "Then it's settled. Hawkclaw, Beetlepaw, could you escort them to Sunningrocks?"

"Yes, Foxstar." Hawkclaw replied.

"Yuck! Do we have to take these traveling herbs?" Hazelpaw complained.

"Yes, you will be stronger if you do." Swiftsap told her.

Before they left, Hazelpaw rushed up to Beetlepaw and whispered something only he could hear.

"Beetlepaw, take my spot." Hazelpaw whispered.

"What? No! We'll both get in trouble!" Beetlepaw exclaimed. "Besides, Hawkclaw wouldn't allow me."

"Fine! If your still a scaredy-mouse-kit, then a true, brave warrior

like me will go!"

After a long walk to ThunderClan, Beetlepaw finally saw the other nine cats who were leaving. ThunderClan and WindClan brought one of their medicine cats. In ThunderClan, the cats were Russettail, Cherryfall and Fawnleap. In RiverClan, the cats were Bramblethroat, Molestorm and Ivymist. WindClan had Gorseface, Blossomspeckle and Heathercloud.

"You brought an *apprentice*?" Molestorm sneered.

"It would be good learning experience." Swiftsap replied sternly.

"How are your Clans dealing with the greencough?" Russettail asked. "Thankfully nobody has died in ThunderClan."

"One of our kits died." Gorseface mewed solemnly.

"We're sorry for your loss." Hawkclaw mewed. "But you all should get going now."

"Have safe travels." Beetlepaw mewed.

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There is a quest! But because I'm an idiot and I suck at coming up with ideas! This quest will not go on throughout the entire book! Why am I typing like this!
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# Chapter 16

"Fox-dung!"

Moonstorm spat at the ground when the rabbit she tried to catch disappeared into the long, grassy meadows hidden in snow. The day before, she had spent her time travelling further from StormClan, just like she did the past few sunrises. Whenever she tried to hunt though, Moonstorm would seem to be a little clumsy. She always thought that it was because of how much she spent in Storm's den without exercise.

Sticking her tongue out to taste the air, Moonstorm scented a familiar odor nearby. Getting closer, her eyes widened in shock. *This is the WindClan border!*

A second later, Moonstorm heard a small patrol coming. Squinting her eyes to see who the cats were, she could make out one of the cats holding a small patch of gray fur.

*That's a kit! What are they doing with it?*

To her horror, Moonstorm realised that they were burying the kit.

"What will I do without him?" The white she-cat wailed.

"Don't worry, Whitebird. Brackenkit's in StarClan now." The calico she-cat mewed gently. "Not even catmint could save him anyway."

"This is probably the toughest leaf-bare the Clans have ever seen." The brown tom mewed. "The worst part, Brackenkit was Whitebird's only kit!" The tom suddenly stuck his tongue out. "Do you guys smell ShadowClan?"

Moonstorm stiffened. She hadn't covered up her scent.

"Who's there!" The calico she-cat growled.

Moonstorm didn't know what to do for a second. The three cats started to go towards her hiding spot. Without thinking, she started to crawl backwards, feeling each paw-step carefully before putting it down. When she was close enough to a small bush, Moonstorm dashed out of the territory. The three cats glared at her direction.

"It was probably a ShadowClan rabbit that strayed all the way over here somehow." The brown tom mewed.

"We should have caught it." Whitebird hissed.

Skidding to a halt, Moonstorm realised something. She could see a very slight movement in Brackenkit. So slight that she didn't even think about it. Going towards the lonely tree in front of her, Moonstorm found some moss on its roots, slightly covered in snow. Rolling in it, she felt chills go through her spine as the snow hit her pelt. Giving herself one last sniff, Moonstorm nearly gagged at the strong WindClan scent now on her.

. . .

Panting, Moonstorm slowed down to a walk. She had gone into WindClan territory, checked to see if a cat was nearby, then dug up Brackenkit and filled the hole back up and ran, past the mountains.

Moonstorm saw an oak forest nearby and started heading towards it. When she got there, she saw a small hill, just large enough for a small den. A river was also near. Putting down Brackenkit, Moonstorm patted on his back to make him spit out the dirt buried in his throat. Brackenkit suddenly jolted, coughed up the rest of the dirt, and fainted again.

*He still has greencough*, Moonstorm realised, as she felt the heat from the kit. Carrying the kit with her, Moonstorm walked around the forest until she found a very small clump of catmint that was nearly buried completely in the snow. Nipping off a few leaves, Moonstorm gently put Brackenkit down, curled around him, chewed up the catmint and dropped the pulp into his mouth, feeding him like her own kit. Going back to the den, Moonstorm felt like a queen. *Is this what it's like to have kits?* Moonstorm thought.

. . .

Waking up early, Moonstorm got out of the den, just before dawn. She tasted the air and started heading upwind, until she scented a vole. Dropping into a hunting crouch, Moonstorm crept towards the scent of the vole, and pounced, nipping it's throat.

*I should probably practice my tree hunting skills.* Moonstorm mainly hunted on the ground and rarely climbed trees, so when she saw a blackbird perched on a thick branch, Moonstorm buried her vole and headed towards a tree very close to the tree the blackbird was on and started to climb. When she reached the top, she started to creep as close as she could to the bird, and pounced, landing on the blackbird, but nearly lost balance. Struggling to her paws, Moonstorm eventually got back on the branch with the blackbird still in her grip. Killing it, Moonstorm carefully came back down and dug up the vole and headed for the den, until she ran into Brackenkit. He was awake, and clearly cured from the greencough.

"You're not supposed to be out here." Moonstorm mewed, dropping her prey.

"Who— who are you?" Brackenkit stuttered. "You smell like ShadowClan."

Brackenkit started to back away, but Moonstorm remained calm.

"You don't need to worry. I dug you up when you were about to be buried alive." Moonstorm mewed.

"How do I know you're not just trying to take me from my Clan?"

"I cured you from greencough."

Brackenkit paused for a moment.

"Here, I got this for you." Moonstorm mewed, pushing the blackbird towards Brackenkit. "We should probably get back to the den."

Nodding silently, they both walked together until they reached the den, sat down in the nest and ate their prey. When Moonstorm finished her vole, Brackenkit was still eating, so she went out and

found some moss growing near the river.

Coming back to the den, dropped the soaked moss in front of the gray kit.

"How old are you?" Moonstorm asked, already knowing but not wanting to seem like a trespasser.

"Three moons old." Brackenkit mewed. "My name is—"

"Brackenkit. I know." Moonstorm blurted out accidentally. As Brackenkit's eyes widened, Moonstorm continued before Brackenkit could reply. "I accidentally entered WindClan territory when I was hunting. I encountered your mother with two other cats burying you."

Brackenkit was lost in words for a second, then changed the topic.

"How did you cure me from greencough?"

"I was a medicine cat apprentice."

"Medicine cats don't hunt!"

"What else am I supposed to do?"

Brackenkit paused for a second.

"What's your name?"

Moonstorm was the one hesitating now. She didn't know what to refer herself as.

"Moonpaw."

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I think Moonpaw just committed a crime— oh well.
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# Chapter 17

As they left ThunderClan territory, Hazelpaw saw the never-ending landscapes beyond the mountains surrounding the lake.

*I never knew the world was so big!* Hazelpaw already wanted to hunt.

"Swiftsap, can we hunt now?" Hazelpaw asked.

Swiftsap looked like he just heard the most mouse-brained thing ever. "We only just exited the lake. You had traveling herbs before you left. They should keep you going until sunset." Swiftsap mewed. Frustrated, Hazelpaw kept walking, ignoring the smirks some of the other cats were making.

Continuing, they stopped at a thunderpath.

"When I say go, we'll run across." Bramblethroat mewed.

Hazelpaw hid the frustration in her face. *Don't tell me what to do, RiverClan cat.* Then she thought again. *If I don't listen, Swiftsap will bug me again into a worthless lecture.*

Waiting, Hazelpaw blinked as a black monster dashed past, leaving it's disgusting odor.

"Go!" Bramblethroat yowled at last.

Running across, Hazelpaw landed gracefully onto the undergrowth on the other side as the last RiverClan cats followed. Looking forward, Hazelpaw spotted a two-leg place.

*Is this the place the vision meant?* Hazelpaw wondered. *Finally, we can go home.* But it just didn't feel right to her. The journey only just started.

"Is this the place we're supposed to go to?" Heathercloud asked.

"Why did we need three from each Clan if the catmint's only right there?"

"So then we can carry more back." Molestorm meowed.

"Still, it feels like there's something missing. The journey only just started."

"Can we stop wasting time? Our Clanmates are dying back home!" Lightstorm hissed, dashing forward.

"Lightstorm, wait!" Swiftsap yowled. Hazelpaw blinked, and when she opened her eyes again, Lightstorm vanished.

Running forward, Hazelpaw realized that the yellow and gray warrior launched himself into a raging river, and was flapping his paws like a kit, desperately trying to keep his head above the water. A split second later, Molestorm jumped into the river and grabbed onto Lightstorm, but the current was so strong that they both were being washed away. Without a second thought, Hazelpaw saw a thick tree branch that was hanging quite low, and she grabbed onto it with her front paws and lowered herself just far enough so that Molestorm could grab her hind legs. Feeling something grab her scruff, Hazelpaw looked up to see Swiftsap pulling her up, along with Fawnleap behind her. As she was being lifted up, Hazelpaw prayed that the branch wouldn't snap. Finally, Hazelpaw was able to balance on the branch as Molestorm and Lightstorm landed on the undergrowth, spitting muddy water out of their throats.

"Mouse-brain! You nearly got us killed!" Molestorm hissed.

"Sorry..." Lightstorm apologised, bowing his head. "Thank you Hazelpaw, you did what a true warrior would do."

Hazelpaw felt a moment of pride.

"How will we cross this river though?" Russettail asked.

"There are some stepping stones over there." Ivymist replied.

As Gorseface finally crossed the river, it was Hazelpaw's turn. Swiftsap was behind her. Hazelpaw looked into the river, and saw

the crashing currents. *I don't want to fall in there like Lightstorm and Molestorm!* Hazelpaw shivered. Taking a deep breath, she leaped onto the first stone, swallowing a yelp from how cold the stone was. The next one was in her reach. Putting a paw pad on the stone, Hazelpaw carefully made her way across. Finally landing onto the snow on the other side, Hazelpaw watched her mentor cross.

Suddenly, a calico she-cat appeared behind them. She looked like an apprentice.

"Hi, I'm Tweazers!" The she-cat exclaimed. "Who are you?"

"We're Clan cats." Fawnleap replied, and Tweazers gasped.

"You mean those forest cats who eat bones?"

"We're not going to hurt you. We just want catmint. Do you grow any in your nest?" Cherryfall asked.

"What's catmint?"

"It's a herb used to cure greencough." Ivymist mewed, then added as Tweazers looked like she was going to ask what greencough was, "They're pale green leaves with a hairy stem."

"My upholders don't grow anything."

"What are upholders?" Heathercloud asked.

Just as she said that, a two-leg came out of their nest.

"That's my upholder!" Tweazers squealed.

The two-leg had long, black fur on the top of it's head, and when it saw them, it started running towards the cats, it's fur getting in its face.

"Run!" Blossomspeckle yowled.

Running as fast as she could, Hazelpaw kept in pace with Swiftsap, who was in front of Molestorm. All of the sudden, Hazelpaw slipped abruptly and felt a strong tug at her tail. *The two-leg got me!*

Hazelpaw realised, and she felt a wash of terror over her. Trying to get out of the two-leg's grip, Hazelpaw tried to run away, but the two-leg picked her up by her scruff, and she couldn't move. Swiftsap then clawed at the two-leg's hind legs, and it yowled, but kept a firm grip on Hazelpaw as it kicked Swiftsap away. The others then leaped up and started clawing at the two-leg carelessly, not caring where they hit it. The two-leg finally dropped Hazelpaw and they dashed off, leaving the two-leg with it's injuries.

. . .

As they finally escaped into a pine forest, the sun was setting. They found an old badger den that had a stale badger scent on it. Gorseface came forward and his eyes widened.

"Why is there ShadowClan scent here?" He asked, looked that Swiftsap, Lightstorm and Hazelpaw.

"How are we supposed to know?" Lightstorm hissed. "We've never been here before!"

"Can we just rest? The scent is old, and I'm tired." Bramblethroat mewed.

"Ok. I'll collect some more moss." Ivymist mewed.

"I'll come with you!" Hazelpaw offered.

"Same." Fawnleap added.

. . .

Opening her eyes, Hazelpaw could see that it wasn't dawn yet. Going outside, she felt her belly rumble. *I should hunt.*

Sticking her tongue out, Hazelpaw could make out two voles. Dropping into a hunting crouch, Hazelpaw crept forward and saw the voles, close together. Leaping, Hazelpaw caught one vole in her left paw, and the other in her right. Killing each of them, Hazelpaw hid the two voles in a nearby bush and stuck her tongue out again. Hazelpaw heard a small rustle and saw a skinny rabbit. Immediately catching it, Hazelpaw started to like the forest. *This*

*place is rich with prey! Unlike at the lake where the fresh-kill pile is empty most of the time in leaf-bare.*

Hazelpaw heard her name being called behind her, and looking back, she could see Swiftsap and Lightstorm running towards her.

"You made me think you were attacked!" Swiftsap hissed. "Don't go anywhere without letting somebody know!"

Hazelpaw just glared at her. Swiftsap didn't even notice that she had been hunting. Going to the bush she hid the voles, Hazelpaw dragged the two small bodies out, and signalled to Swiftsap to bring the rabbit. Picking the rabbit up, Swiftsap turned and headed for the den. When they entered, only the two medicine cats were there.

"The others went out hunting. I just hope that they find enough prey. But that looks delicious!" Fawnleap told Hazelpaw, looking at the prey. "Did you and Swiftsap catch that?"

"No, I caught them all." Hazelpaw mewed proudly, standing up straight.

"That's great!" Ivymist exclaimed. "Could we have the rabbit? We're starving right now."

"Sure."

A while after eating, the others came back looking astonished.

"This forest is flourished with prey!" Bramblethroat exclaimed. "I can't imagine what it would be like in green-leaf!"

Settling down, Hazelpaw helped herself to a frog that Lightstorm caught.

After eating, they continued to find the place that the vision said. The group of cats halted when they came to a river that looked just like the first one. Each cat made it across safely, and it was Hazelpaw's turn. Since she did this before, Hazelpaw was less careful when crossing the river. When she got to the final stone, Hazelpaw leaped. Suddenly, instead of lifting off the stone, her hind legs slipped. Gasping, Hazelpaw reached out to the stone infront of

her and grabbed it, half of her body in the cold, rushing water. Even colder than the snow already was on the undergrowth. Hazelpaw could see the terror in the other Clan cats' eyes. Pushing herself up, Hazelpaw was able to regain balance on the stone and leaped to the shore, shaking off the water, embarrassed that she had slipped on such an easy jump. Looking back, Hazelpaw could see the relief in Swiftsap's eyes, as he leaped from stone to stone. On the last stone, Swiftsap nearly slipping like Hazelpaw, and she felt better.

"Don't feel embarrassed. There was moss with snow on that stone." Swiftsap mewed.

"The sun's setting." Hazelpaw reported. "Should we find a shelter?"

"No, we still have time." Bramblethroat mewed. "Besides, if an owl decided to attack a large group of cats like us, it would be mouse-brained."

Agreeing a little, Ivymist suddenly looked confused.

"Why do I smell a strong scent of blood?" She asked.

Sticking her tongue out, Hazelpaw also tasted it. It was mostly from prey, but there was a clear scent of cat blood mixed with it. All of them dashed forward, eager to find out what was making that smell, until they came across a small gorge, the group walked around it until they could jump across it. Continuing, Cherryfall started to run all of the sudden.

"I think I see a camp over there!" She mewed.

Running, they stopped at a very large camp full of cats. Hazelpaw gagged at the stench. *The scent is disgusting!*

Suddenly, a large tortoiseshell tom with blue and green eyes stepped forward, and Hazelpaw froze in shock. Looking over, she could see that Swiftsap and Lightstorm had their eyes wide of shock and fear, as the ShadowClan cats recognised who this cat was.

"Greetings," the tortoiseshell mewed, "my name is Storm."

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They somehow found their way to StormClan. Oh no.

# Chapter 18

Brackenkit has been keeping track of his age, and he is four moons old now. During the past moon, Brackenkit had gained trust in Moonpaw really quickly. Back then, Brackenkit was confused on why Moonpaw was an apprentice, despite looking like a warrior already. In his thoughts, Moonpaw suddenly called him.

"Brackenkit, come here!" Moonpaw called to him. "I'm going to show you how to hunt."

Excited, Brackenkit dashed outside in an instant as soon as he heard those words.

"I need you to be as quiet as a mouse as I try to find prey, got that?" Moonpaw mewed.

Nodding, Brackenkit watched carefully as Moonpaw crouched down. Taking in every bit of detail, Brackenkit saw how Moonpaw's tail was low, but not so low that it was being dragged across the ground. He also saw how her belly was just above the grass so that it wouldn't make a sound when she crawled towards the prey. When Moonpaw leaped, Brackenkit realised that her aim was off, and she looked a little clumsy.

*It must be because she's a medicine cat,* Brackenkit thought.

Moonpaw emerged from the grass with a fat rabbit.

"That looks so good!" Brackenkit congratulated. "I can't wait to learn how to hunt so that I can bring prey back to my Clan."

Coming back, Moonpaw suddenly stopped and headed towards a juniper berry bush. Coming back out, she had fresh moss with her.

Chewing on the rabbit, Brackenkit looked at Moonpaw's belly.

"Moonpaw," Brackenkit mewed, "you look like an expecting queen."

Moonpaw glared at Brackenkit, and he realised what he said. *I didn't mean you looked fat!*

Moonpaw swallowed her food and looked at her belly, and looked down sadly. "Actually, you're right. I think I'm getting fat."

"But you've been eating so little!" Coming forward, Brackenkit put his nuzzle into Moonpaw's belly. It felt like the time when he was allowed to put his nuzzle into Cloudstep's belly when she was expecting kits.

"Moonpaw, I think you're actually having kits." Brackenkit mewed softly.

Moonpaw's eyes widened as she heard the news.

"Is that why I've been clumsy lately? Why my belly has been feeling so heavy?" Moonpaw meowed, sounding like she was panicking badly. "From the looks of it, I've been expecting for a moon! Medicine cats aren't supposed to have kits!"

"Who's the father?" Brackenkit asked.

Moonpaw paused for a moment, and then her eyes widened with a mixture of guilt, anger and fear.

"It must be Storm. It's the only reasonable answer."

"Who's Storm?"

"Storm is the reason that I'm here right now. He took me from ShadowClan to his Clan called StormClan. They kill cats who break his fox-hearted rules."

Brackenkit felt a little scared. "What were some of the rules?"

"If you don't bring back at least three pieces of prey, you would get killed. The leader and deputy are fed first. You must fight for food. You are only allowed to get treatment if you are the leader or warriors and kits at the verge of death. Elders are just extra mouths to feed. Queens are useless and cry about the smallest things."

Brackenkit gasped at these harsh rules.

"Then it isn't your fault that you're expecting kits. Storm is so fox-hearted!

"But who in StarClan is going to help me when the kits come?"

"I'll help." Brackenkit volunteered.

Moonpaw paused for a moment, then nodded.

"Alright, I'll teach you what you need to do when it happens." Moonpaw mewed.

"Could you also teach me how to hunt? Queens aren't supposed to hunt."

"No, you still need to wait until you are six moons old."

"Why can't we just go back to the Clans?"

"They think we're dead. If we go back there, they would think we were rogues and would chase us out, or worse, kill us."

Brackenkit looked down. He hadn't thought about that.

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O.o

Wow, Storm. Congrats. You are the most disgusting cat in history.

Let's just pray that the kits won't be like Storm.
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# Chapter 19

As Beetlepaw woke up, he felt oddly cold, but kept his eyes shut.

*Where's Hazelpaw?* Beetlepaw questioned himself. Finally opening his eyes, Hazelpaw was nowhere in sight. Beetlepaw panicked for a second, then remembered that Hazelpaw was still on the quest and had only left yesterday. Heading outside of the den, Beetlepaw saw that dawn had just past, and went to find his Hawkclaw, as Mousewhisker still had greencough.

"Hawkclaw, can I go hunting?" Beetlepaw asked, finding Hawkclaw outside the elders' den.

"Sure. Just make sure to be back before sunset." Hawkclaw replied.

Dashing outside, Beetlepaw slowed down and stuck his tongue out, and saw two thrush on a tree branch above him. Carefully climbing up the tree, Beetlepaw launched himself at the thrush, managing to catch one of them while the other flew away. Beetlepaw crashed down and felt the cold snow hit his pelt, but managed to keep hold of the thrush, and killed it. Beetlepaw decided to come back to camp, despite that he hasn't even been out of long. Beetlepaw dropped the thrush on the empty fresh-kill pile, then saw that the hunting patrols had returned, and dropped their prey onto the pile as well, though there wasn't much. Some of the warriors then picked up half of the prey to give to the sick, elders, queens and kits. Beetlepaw waited patiently to grab his share, when Sandclaw called him over.

"Hey Beetlepaw! Come share this rabbit with me!" He mewed.

Happily padding over, Beetlepaw settled down beside Sandclaw and took a bite of the rabbit.

While he was eating, Beetlepaw saw that Foxstar and Pebblewing were in the middle of the camp, and he listened to their

conversation.

"Pebblewing, you need to go outside and do something for the Clan." Foxstar mewed.

"I have no reason to do anything anymore." Pebblewing replied. "My mate is gone, and now my kits are dead."

Foxstar's eyes narrowed in annoyance. "Pebblewing, are you now just an extra mouth to feed? If you aren't going to do something, you're basically a useless warrior. Think about Dawnstorm! All that she taught you! Stop being lazy and get over it."

Beetlepaw nearly choked on the rabbit, and Sandclaw did the same thing.

"It's literally your fault for not doing anything in the first place when I was worried!" Pebblewing hissed. "That was the day my mate died!"

"Pebblewing! That is *not* how you talk to your leader!"

"I don't even *think* of you as my leader! I know you're grumpy in the morning, but that's no excuse to neglect your Clanmates like that!"

"I'm not neglecting my Clanmates!"

"Oh, so you're now neglectful *and* blind? You can't even see your own mistakes!"

Suddenly, Foxstar unsheathed his claws and was about to attack Pebblewing.

"Wait!" Beetlepaw yowled, as he stepped in between the two cats without second thought. Foxstar's eyes widened in surprise, but it was already too late to stop his strike. Foxstar's claws slashed against Beetlepaw's right ear and the left side of his pelt, and Beetlepaw collapsed onto the snow as he felt his cold blood dripping down his body.

"Beetlepaw!" Hawkclaw yowled, dashing out of the small crowd of cats that had formed.

"Beetlepaw, I—"

Before Foxstar could finish, Beetlepaw ran out of camp as fast as he could, ignoring the worried and shocked glances, and went straight for the cave on the side of the gorge. Recalling the time Moonpaw had told him about the place, Beetlepaw sat down, also remembering that this was the place Dustpaw had died. A few moments later, he was shocked to find Hawkclaw behind him, then realised that he must have followed his scent mark.

Settling beside him, Hawkclaw asked, "How did you find this place?"

Beetlepaw hesitated, wondering whether he should tell him that Moonpaw told him about it.

When Hawkclaw repeated the question, Beetlepaw mewed, "Moonpaw and Dustpaw found it first. They told me about it."

Hawkclaw's eyes widened. "Why didn't you tell Mousewhisker or—" Hawkclaw was about to say Foxstar, but then stopped himself.

"I didn't want to get them in trouble."

"I understand that."

After a long silence, Beetlepaw added, "Is it weird that I feel bitter whenever Hazelpaw's around?"

"That's hatred."

"What! But I don't hate Hazelpaw! She's my littermate!" Beetlepaw started to panic. He didn't want to hate his sister, even though she was mean to him.

"We can't control our emotions. I remember Moonpaw telling me that, when I told her about my emotions."

"What were you feeling?"

"I was in love with Briarfang apparently."

Suddenly Hawkclaw's eyes widened again as if he wasn't meant to say that out loud.

"We should get you some treatment," he mewed quickly, "those scars can get infected."

"But Lilyheart still has greencough."

"Foxstar is actually planning to ask the other Clans if they could have their medicine cat stay with ShadowClan until Lilyheart gets better. Now come on, those scars look bad."

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

FOXSTAR!

You just harmed Beetlepaw!

How could you!

Oh and Dawnstorm is Pebblewing's mentor.
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# Chapter 20

"Hazelpaw."

Hearing her name, Hazelpaw opened her eyes to find Swiftsap above her, with Lightstorm by Swiftsap's side. It was still night time, and the others were asleep.

"Come with us, we need to talk about Storm." Swiftsap mewed.

Lifting herself up, Hazelpaw followed the two warriors outside and into the forest.

"Ok, so what should we do about this?" Lightstorm asked.

"We could tell the others about Storm," Hazelpaw considered, before adding, "but they might decide to attack him immediately, so that's a bad idea."

"Attempting to poison or trap him in secret also isn't a good idea. All the cats here would assume that we did it immediately." Swiftsap mentioned.

"I day we see how this plays out. This cat did kill Moonpaw after all, so he's definitely dangerous. Moonpaw is a good fighter." Hazelpaw admitted.

"I agree. Perhaps the others will also see how dangerous he is." Swiftsap mewed, before adding, "But let's at least give them hints so that it'll be easier for them.

As they were walking back, the sun started to rise, so they slumped into their nests and pretended like they were sleeping the entire time. Russettail was the first to speak.

"This place is great!" He exclaimed.

"Yeah!" Hazelpaw forced out the words, while Swiftsap and Lightstorm nodded.

Looking to her side, Hazelpaw nearly jumped when she saw that Storm was heading their direction.

"I've come to ask you all why you've come to StormClan, my warriors were just so curious." He mewed.

"We've come because our Clans are suffering badly from greencough, and we need catmint." Fawnleap replied.

"Oh, we have plenty! We can give ours to you before you leave." Storm told them. "A cat named Moonstorm taught us about herbs."

*Moonstorm? That sounds similar to Moonpaw.* Hazelpaw thought.

"Really? Thank you so much!" Molestorm mewed, sounding like an apprentice that had just caught their first prey.

"May StarClan light your path." Cherryfall mewed.

The ShadowClan cats all shared a disagreeing glance before heading off together to hunt.

After catching a sparrow with Blossomspeckle, Hazelpaw decided to let out a hint.

"Blossomspeckle, have you realised how skinny some of the cats are here? Especially the elders, kits and medicine cat?" Hazelpaw asked.

But Blossomspeckle just shook her head. "No, I didn't see anything of the sort." The she-cat then dropped into a hunting crouch, launched into the juniper bush nearby and came back out with a mouse.

*Huh!* Hazelpaw thought. *Are the other Clans* that *blind?*

. . .

Waking up in the same den again, the Clan cats headed outside to find Storm outside waiting for them.

"Greetings," he mewed, "I have an offer. Would you like to join StormClan?"

"Sorry, but our Clans need us." Heathercloud replied, dipping her head.

"Understood. You may explore the camp today."

Hazelpaw looked into the large tom's eyes, and she could see irritation in them.

Walking around by herself, a white she-cat with odd pink tips on her ears, paws and tail shoved her.

"Move out of the way, outsider!" She hissed.

"Don't treat me like that!" Hazelpaw hissed back.

"Hey, what are you doing talking to Kat like that, or are you stupid?" A large, brown tom approached, towering over Hazelpaw. "I've never seen you before. Are you one of those kits Longeye brought to us last moon?"

Hazelpaw was shocked. *They steal kits? Is that why they have so many cats in their camp?*

"Brambleclaw, she's one of those idiot outsiders!" Kat wailed. She reminded Hazelpaw of herself when she was a kit.

"Is that right?" Brambleclaw growled. "Well just so you know, none of you are welcomed here. You're like those 'kittypets' you drive out, while we're the Clans that drive the kittypets out."

Hazelpaw was speechless, then suddenly Brambleclaw lashed out his claws at her. Dodging back, he missed by a whisker. Hazelpaw ran away as fast as she could.

Finally slowing down, Hazelpaw thought about what had just happened. *I... felt like Moonpaw when I bullied her with Sandclaw.*

Hazelpaw realised, and the mouse that she ate earlier for breakfast was weighing heavily in her belly as guilt flooded over her. *I caused her injuries out of jealousy, and made her miserable. It's my fault that Sandclaw hates me.* Figuring out everything, Hazelpaw padded over to Swiftsap and the others, where they were preparing to leave.

"Hello, Storm." Swiftsap mewed confidently. "We'll be taking our leave now, thank you for keeping us here."

"It's my pleasure. We'll be sending you to our border with the catmint we had promised." Storm replied, with a mischievous grin on his face. The mouse weighed down even more as Hazelpaw got a bad feeling in her guts.

"Moonstorm must be a really smart cat if she taught you about herbs," Fawnleap mewed, "is she your ancestor?"

"Actually, she came in moons ago. Her name was Moonpaw at first, but I changed it."

*What?* Hazelpaw looked at the other cats, and saw that their eyes had widened in surprise as well.

"What did the cat look like?" Hazelpaw was afraid to ask, but let the words out.

"She's a really fluffy black cat with white spots, and blue eyes. She had a poppy in her left ear, and a scratch on her left eye and shoulder."

The twelve cats stared at the large tom in shock. He had described Moonpaw's appearance perfectly.

*That must mean Moonpaw might be alive right now!* Hazelpaw realised. *I still have a chance to apologise!*

"Wait... you're the cat who kidnapped Moonpaw?" Swiftsap stuttered, dropping a leaf of catmint. All Storm did was put on and mischievous grin, and flicked his tail.

At that very moment, all the warriors from that camp burst out from all directions.

"Run! There's too many cats, we can't win this battle!" Bramblethroat yowled, knocking a black cat out of the way.

Hazelpaw's legs felt like they were about to fall off, but she just kept running. Catching a glimpse of Swiftsap, she realised that Storm was catching up to her mentor, and was about to kill her. Turning around, Hazelpaw kicked off the ground and onto Storm, sinking her claws into his pelt, then realised that some cats were surrounding her. Seeing a branch above her, Hazelpaw jumped onto it and pushed off, catching up with the others. Swiftsap gave her a thankful glance, before facing forward again, Hazelpaw spotted the same small gorge as before and jumped over it with the others. The StormClan cats stopped abruptly, some letting off shrieks of surprise and fear. However, to Hazelpaw's dismay, Storm was back with a yellow tabby, which Hazelpaw assumed to be Ivytail, the Clan's deputy, and had jumped over the gorge effortlessly. They had finally gotten to the river, and now knowing about the mossy rock, the Clan cats jumped over it to the second one. Hazelpaw stopped in front of it.

*Can I really make that jump?* Suddenly, she saw that Storm was a fox-length away, and without second thought, jumped to the second rock and continued as fast as she could until she was with the others. They kept on running until they had heard a yowl.

"Storm!"

Looking back, Hazelpaw could see Ivytail looking at the rushing current. *Storm slipped on the first rock and got washed away.* Hazelpaw realised. Ivytail looked at the Clan cats and narrowed her eyes before walking off back to their camp.

"Is everybody ok?" Gorseface asked, dropping his catmint. The others did the same.

"I just have a clawed ear." Russettail pointed his claw at his bleeding right ear.

"One of the cats pulled some fur out, but no scars." Heathercloud meowed.

"I think we all have scars," Swiftsap remarked, "I'd be dead if Hazelpaw hadn't saved me."

Hazelpaw puffed out her chest fur proudly. As everybody picked up their catmint again, they set off back to the Clans, exhausted from the chase.

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Ok, they escaped! And now they know that Moonpaw is alive! Cool!
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# Chapter 21

As Brackenkit stood next to Moonpaw, he watched her wail out in pain as another spasm hit, feeling very uncomfortable watching her in her current state. It was dawn when Brackenkit woke up with a start when Moonpaw had yowled out. The sun was now high above them, as what felt like moons past. Finally, a small, black shape slithered onto the moss, and Brackenkit immediately broke its delicate sack and pushed in front of Moonpaw, and she started licking the small kit feebly as Brackenkit also gave her wet moss. As another spasm hit, Brackenkit licked the black kit, warming it up. When the next kit slithered out, Brackenkit put his muzzle onto Moonpaw's belly.

"It feels like two more kits, I think." He mewed.

Moonpaw nodded as she drank from the wet moss, then clenched her teeth as pain rippled through her body. Brackenkit nipped the sack of the second kit, which was white, and licked it until it started crying out. Another kit slithered out onto the moss, and it was gray. Finally, a tortoiseshell she-cat fell onto the moss. Moonpaw nipped the sack of the tortoiseshell kit, while Brackenkit did the gray kit and it let out a small wail almost immediately. The two licked the kits until they started breathing.

"They look really strong." Moonpaw commented, pushing her kits towards her belly. "You did everything perfectly, Brackenkit."

Brackenkit sighed in relief. He thought that he did something very wrong, and it felt good to be reassured by Moonpaw.

"What are you going to name them?" Brackenkit asked. Moonpaw paused a few moments.

"The black tom will be Echokit, the gray she-cat Hollykit because of her green eyes, the white tom Mosskit, and the tortoiseshell she-cat Emberkit."

"Emberkit looks like Storm." Brackenkit remembered Moonpaw telling him what Storm looked like.

"It's not her fault that she looks like that, so I don't care."

"Can you tell me more about the Clans?" Brackenkit did live in WindClan before, but he wanted to know more about what would happen when you became a medicine cat, for example.

"Well, only a medicine cat can know how many lives their leaders have left."

"Wow! You must feel really powerful."

"Not really. Everybody else in the Clan are just as important."

The two cats sat in silence for a bit.

"Who's going to train me when I'm six moons old?" Brackenkit asked.

"I will." Moonpaw replied. Brackenkit felt like he just heard the most mouse-brained thing ever.

"But how? You're a medicine cat, and a ShadowClan cat. I'm from WindClan!"

"I trained as a warrior first, and I was really good at it. And so what if I'm from ShadowClan? There's moor outside this forest, I've hunted there before anyways."

Brackenkit nodded. He still didn't trust the process a bit, but he wanted to be a warrior not caring about what Clan he learnt it from.

. . .

Brackenkit jumped up when he heard snarls coming from outside. Looking down, he saw Moonpaw's kits beneath him, and he could smell fox outside. Brackenkit's belly lurched as he saw Moonpaw fighting a fox pup. Trying to move his paw forward, Brackenkit couldn't move out of fear. As Moonpaw jumped over the fox's head,

landing on it's back. The fox simply shook her off, but she landed on all fours and launched herself towards the fox cub. Brackenkit could tell she had been fighting for a while, as both Moonpaw and the fox cub had scars. The fox lashed out it's claw, but Moonpaw dodged it swiftly and lashed at it's throat, making it bleed. The fox yowled and ran off, knowing it couldn't win. Moonpaw came limping back to the den, and Brackenkit looked around the forest for some cobweb.

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Well, this chapter was cringe and bad—
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# Chapter 22

As Beetlepaw settled down next to Swiftsap, the gathering started.

"Cats of all Clans!" Puddlestar yowled. "Welcome to the gathering. As all of you know, the cats that went on the quest have come back last sunrise with enough catmint for each of their Clan. We welcome them back."

As the cats cheered, Beetlepaw looked over to his sister. To his surprise, instead of the proud face Hazelpaw usually had, she looked guilty. *You were one of the cats that saved the Clans though!*

"Now setting that aside," Puddlestar continued, "would you like to start, Oakstar?"

"Yes, thank you Puddlestar." Oakstar mewed. "Some of our Clan-mates have recovered from greencough, however, three rogues attempted to kidnap Leafkit."

Gasps of shock sounded from the island, and Beetlepaw heard Swiftsap mutter, "Probably those fox-hearted rogues we met."

*They met rogues on their quest?* Beetlepaw was shocked, and confused.

. . .

"Beetlepaw, you'll go on border patrol at the ThunderClan border." Ashfoot mewed. Beetlepaw nodded and followed Swiftsap, Hazelpaw, Mousewhisker who fully recovered and Jaypool.

As they were walking, Hazelpaw mewed to Beetlepaw, "Hey Beetlepawwho gave you those scars?"

Beetlepaw was surprised by the kindness in her voice, and the fact that she didn't tease him about them. Especially the fact that she didn't call him a scaredy-mouse kit. *I'd think she forgot my name by*

*now!* "Foxstar had an argument with Pebblewing. I tried to stop them, and he clawed at me without realising."

Hazelpaw's eyes widened, then she looked down. "Beetlepaw, I'm sorry for bullying you when we were kits. I was stupid, and even dragged Sandclaw into this mess."

Beetlepaw couldn't believe his ears. *Who are you and what have you done with Hazelpaw?* She had to be joking. She just had to be. "Very funny."

"I'm not joking." Hazelpaw had a hurt look in her eyes. *Had the quest changed her?* Beetlepaw wondered.

"I've realised my mistakes, and I want to make it up to you." Hazelpaw continued.

Beetlepaw sprayed his scent on the border, thinking about what had just happened. Suddenly, Hazelpaw jumped over him. "Watch out!"

A rogue had appeared out of nowhere. Hazelpaw jumped onto the rogue before it could lay a whisker on Beetlepaw. The ginger she-cat pushed Hazelpaw off him, and Hazelpaw landed on a large rock. Unsheathing his claws, Beetlepaw launched himself at the rogue, clawing at her pelt. The rogue raked at his muzzle, and Beetlepaw dodged it swiftly. Hazelpaw got up again and attempted to pin the rogue down, but she dodged and kicked Hazelpaw away again, only focusing on Beetlepaw. Beetlepaw failed to dodge the rogue's next strike, and she clawed his pelt really deep. Hazelpaw got up once again and clawed at the rogue's back. The she-cat yowled in pain, and pinned Hazelpaw down. Suddenly, Jaypool slammed the rogue onto the thunderpath, watching the side. As Beetlepaw struggled to get up, Jaypool leaped off the rogue back onto ShadowClan territory, and a heartbeat later a monster zoomed by, crushing the rogue. Beetlepaw watched in shock as he saw all that was left of the ginger she-cat. Swiftsap and Mousewhisker also appeared behind them. Mousewhisker pressed himself against Beetlepaw as he got up.

"Are you ok, Hazelpaw?" Swiftsap asked.

"Yeah, thanks." Hazelpaw replied.

"Go get them to Lilyheart, I'll stay here and finish marking the border." Jaypool mewed.

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What a brutal death—
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# Chapter 23

Moonpaw watched as she saw Hollykit lead Brackenkit towards the large rock she had found last sunrise. She could see his confused face as he looked at the other kits, making a small circle around the front of the rock as he was placed in it. Moonpaw decided that it was now time to show Brackenkit, now six moons old, what she had been planning the past few sunrises.

"Brackenkit, you have reached six moons of age." Moonpaw began. She could see Brackenkit now looked uncertain. "From this day forward until you have earned your warrior name, you will be known as Brackenpaw. I shall mentor you myself, and I will do my best to make you the best warrior you can be."

Moonpaw's kits started cheering Brackenpaw's new name, and Moonpaw could see his eyes starting to water from happiness, as he just experienced a moment he never thought he would actually experience. After the ceremony, Brackenpaw followed Moonpaw to the moor next to the oak forest, along with the kits.

"Do remember that I'm not a WindClan cat, so the hunting style might not be the same to WindClan." Moonpaw mewed.

"I don't care, I just want to know how to hunt." Brackenpaw replied. "Also, it's in the moor anyways, so if I do get back, I'll still be able to hunt for my Clan."

Moonpaw smiled, then held her tail up to tell him to stop,. "You've seen a hunting crouch before, right?"

Brackenpaw dropped into the hunting crouch, clearly remembering the time he watched Moonpaw hunt. Moonpaw checked that his tail was slightly above the ground, and that his belly wasn't going to drag along the grass.

"Alright, I'm going to pretend to be a fat rabbit. Try to hunt me."

Moonpaw told Brackenpaw, before going a few tail lengths away from him. After waiting a few heartbeats, Moonpaw heard a crack and quickly turned around. Brackenpaw was about to leap, when he had stepped on a twig.

"Fox-fung!" Brackenpaw hissed.

"Be aware of your surroundings. You might step on a thorn if you're never careful." Moonpaw remembered the time when Dustpaw had stepped on a thorn while trying to hunt a vole, and she felt her eyes sting as she remembered her dead brother. Going a few tail lengths away again, she signalled to Brackenpaw that he could try again. This time, Moonpaw waited a little longer, as Brackenpaw was obviously testing each paw step before he put it down. Moonpaw finally felt small paws on her back as Brackenpaw pinned her down, with pride in his eyes.

"I did it!" Brackenpaw meowed with triumph. The kits jumped up and down, congratulating Brackenpaw.

"Would you like to try with real prey now?" Moonpaw asked.

Brackenpaw nodded, and Moonpaw followed him as he tried to sniff prey. Finally, he dropped into a hunting crouch, and started to crawl forward. Moonpaw crouched down, and signalled to the four kits to do the same, so they wouldn't show the prey the danger. Moonpaw heard a rustle coming from in front of them, and Brackenpaw jumped up with a huge brown rabbit in his jaws.

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Short chapter lol
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# Chapter 24

Hazelpaw waited anxiously as she watched Swiftsap enter Foxstar's den. Beetlepaw bounded next to her.

"You're really good at fighting!" He mewed. "I would've gotten turned into crow-food if our claws weren't sheathed."

Hazelpaw ignored his praises. Her anxiety rose as she watched Foxstar jump onto Highrock.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather around Highrock for a Clan meeting!" He yowled. As cats gathered, Hazelpaw saw Branchleap looking at her from the warrior den, smiling at her.

"It's been moons since we've gotten new warriors." Foxstar started. "Beetlepaw."

Beetlepaw came forward, looking more confident than he ever did.

"Do you promise to uphold the warrior code and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Beetlepaw mewed.

"Then, by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Beetlepaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Beetlewing. StarClan honors your kindness and honesty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

Hazelpaw smiled at her brother. She looked at Foxstar, who looked back at her.

"Hazelpaw."

Hazelpaw came forward. *I'm actually becoming a warrior!*

""Do you promise to uphold the warrior code and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Hazelpaw thought she sounded nervous.

"Then, by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Hazelpaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Hazelpelt. StarClan honors your bravery and determination, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

"Beetlewing! Hazelpelt!"

Beetlewing looked at Hazelpelt with happiness in his eyes.

"We were made warriors together after all." He mewed.

. . .

"Beetlewing, you don't have to sit vigil for the both of us." Hazelpelt begged. Beetlewing had decided to let Hazelpelt go to her first gathering as a warrior, while he would sit in silence guarding the camp the entire night. *He's too kind.* Hazelpelt thought. She gave up in getting Beetlewing to let her sit in vigil, and went to the gathering.

At the gathering, Hazelpaw was bored. *Nothing's interesting here.* It finally came to Foxstar's turn.

"ShadowClan's prey is running very well." Foxstar meowed. "We also have two new warriors, Hazelpelt and Beetlewing."

"Hazelpelt! Beetlewing!"

Hazelpelt stood up and fluffed out her chest fur, and sat back down again. Every leader's speech was short and uninteresting, and looking around, it looked like all the other cats were bored. It was now Puddlestar's turn, although when looking at RiverClan, Hazelpelt could tell that nothing interesting was going on.

"RiverClan–"

Suddenly the smell of dog hit Hazelpelt's nostrils. Around her, the

entire gathering had gone silent as every cat could smell a dog. A heartbeat later, a dog burst into the island. Hazelpelt could hear yelps of surprise and fear. Some cats were trying to climb the Great Oak, while some were trying to fight the dog. *The dog's already grown up.* Hazelpelt realised. She could see that a white WindClan cat was heavily injured. Another shake sounded from the area. *Another dog?* Hazelpelt's chest ached from the thought. Instead, to her surprise, a black shape with white spots jumped onto the dog's back.

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They finally became warriors!

Also,

Mystery animal?

Saving cats from a dog?

Or is it a cat?

Eh, find out in the next chapter.
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# Chapter 25

Brackenpaw ran into the island with a stick covered with cobwebs. He was invited by Moonpaw to watch the gathering, and when they arrived, there was a dog. Brackenpaw told Moonpaw's kits to hide under the bracken on the island before going to two cats who were heavily injured and put pressure on their worst wounds to stop their bleeding. Surprisingly, they didn't question it. Brackenpaw watched Moonpaw fight the dog nervously, as he looked around to find herbs for infections. Moonpaw stayed onto the dog's back, and the dog flung her off effortlessly, but she landed on the floor and launched herself at the dog's face, scratching it's muzzle. The dog yowled and grabbed Moonpaw's scruff, shaking her around and Brackenpaw's chest tightened. He calmed down when Moonpaw clawed the dog's throat with her hind legs, and the dog yowled again before swimming across the lake. At that moment, Brackenpaw spotted some marigold growing near a tree, and nipped off a few flowers before coming back to the two cats and treating their wounds properly. The island was silent for a few heartbeats before erupting into yowls of confusion. A lot of cats came up to Moonpaw asking who she is, and some even came to Brackenpaw. Brackenpaw saw a large ginger tom with a tail like a fox jump down from the great oak with wide eyes, and every cat went silent.

"Are you Moonpaw?" The ginger tom asked. Moonpaw nodded. As she did, some cats from a corner of the island let out yowls of disbelief. Brackenpaw heard some comments from them.

"Moonpaw's dead!"

"She's just a filthy rogue!"

Brackenpaw blocked the noises, and recalled the time when Moonpaw had said that the Clans would think they were rogues. Another tom, this time a striped brown tom, came forward from the group of cats in the same corner and the cats went silent again.

"Where do you and Dustpaw usually like to meet?" The tom asked. Moonpaw hesitated, like she wasn't expecting that question.

"The gorge." She mewed, sounding not as confident.

"She's Moonpaw." The brown tom announced. The entire gathering were still silent, apart from the gasps of shock from the cats. The same white she-cat that Brackenpaw had treated broke the silence.

"Who's this gray tom? He looks like an apprentice." She asked, and Brackenpaw nearly gasped at her voice. He had heard this voice before.

"You don't remember what your own son sounds like?" Moonpaw asked. "He literally smells of WindClan."

The she-cat's eyes widened, and she got up and seemed to study every whisker of Brackenpaw. She got up with tears in her eyes.

"I never thought I'd see you again, Brackenkit." She mewed.

"Whitebird?" Brackenpaw could finally see his mother vividly under the moonlight. There wasn't a cloud in sight. "It's Brackenpaw now, by the way."

"Thank you, Moonpaw, for bringing Brackenpaw back." Whitebird mewed.

"Where have you been?" The ginger tom asked.

"The rogues' camp. They kidnapped me." Moonpaw replied.

"Wait, so we could've saved you!" A cream-coloured tom with gray spots exclaimed.

"I didn't see you then, so I must've escaped before you arrived. Also, one more thing." Moonpaw looked back at the bracken where her kits were, and flicked her tail signalling for them to come out. The four small kits bounded up to their mother, and Moonpaw proceeded to explain what had happened. The ginger tom nodded.

"It's alright. Those rogues were fox-hearts, and it wasn't your

fault that you broke the warrior code." He mewed.

"Well, this was an interesting gathering." A gray tom meowed. "I think we should all go back to our Clans. We've been here for a while."

"Yes, thank you Puddlestar." The ginger tom mewed. "ShadowClan, follow me."

Brackenpaw looked at Moonpaw. "I'm going to miss you."

"You'll be ok." Moonpaw assured. "Besides, now your Clan can actually teach you how to hunt their way."

Brackenpaw nodded, then went with his mother. He tried to look at Moonpaw until she disappeared into the darkness.

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Well, seems like the gathering was interesting after all, and the two came back! :D
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# Chapter 26

Beetlewing rested beside the fresh-kill pile and grabbed a rabbit. He saw Hazelpelt rest beside him.

"That night seemed to last forever." Beetlewing commented. "Want to share this rabbit with me?"

"Why are you acting as if everything is normal?" Hazelpelt asked. Beetlewing was confused.

"What do you mean? Did something happen at the gathering?"

"Great StarClan, did you not see her?"

"Who?"

"Moonpaw's back!"

Beetlewing froze. "Sorry, I must've heard you wrong." He mewed. "I thought you said that Moonpaw was back."

Hazelpelt looked at him like he said something mouse-brained. "I did."

Beetlewing looked at her with wide eyes. He didn't believe it. Getting up, Beetlewing dashed into the medicine den, and his jaw dropped when he saw the one cat that he never thought he would see again. Moonpaw was standing in the medicine den. Moonpaw looked at him, and Beetlewing could see the familiar warming face.

"Where have you been?" Beetlewing asked.

"Rogue's camp. I escaped eventually, but I couldn't go back since the Clans would most likely think I was a rogue." Moonpaw replied.

"Is that where the four kits came from?"Beetlewing had noticed the kits, and they looked like they were two moons old. He did wonder

where they came from, but he was too tired to bother asking. They were being taken care by Pineneedle and Sedgekit anyways.

"I missed you." Beetlewing mewed.

"I'm planning for her to get her medicine cat name when half moon comes." Lilyheart commented. "She deserves it."

Beetlewing sighed. The whole Clan was starting to worry about their medicine cat, as he was getting really old. Lilyheart was practically an elder now.

"Beetlewing!" Ashfoot's mew made Beetlewing jump. "I need you to go hunting at the RiverClan border."

Beetlewing bowed his head and headed outside, towards the border. *My first task as a warrior!* He stopped dead in his tracks when he smelt a sparrow. Dropping into a hunting crouch as usual, Beetlewing easily pounced onto the sparrow and nipped it's throat. In front of him, Beetlewing saw the gorge, and memories of Dustpaw flooded into his mind. *I hope he's happy in StarClan.*

. . .

Beetlewing looked at the setting sun, and decided that it was time to head back to camp. He was starving, and was convinced that he had caught a lot of prey. When he got back, Beetlewing saw that Moon- paw was leaving to go to the Moonpool. They both exchanged glances, and Beetlewing looked at her until she disappeared.

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Oh wow, this chapter was REALLY short.
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# Chapter 27

Moonpaw blinked her eyes as she saw the Moonpool. She was going to become a medicine cat this night. *I wonder if Hazelpelt would've made it to this stage if she became a medicine cat.* Moonpaw shook the thought out of her head. Lilyheart was about to speak.

"I, Lilyheart, medicine cat of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the way of a medicine cat, and with your help she will serve her Clan for many moons." He meowed. Moonpaw felt as if she would forget the two words she had to say. "Moonpaw, do you promise to uphold the ways of a medicine cat, to stand apart from rivalry between Clan and Clan, and to protect all cats equally, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Moonpaw replied confidently.

"Then, by the powers of StarClan, I give you your true name as a medicine cat. Moonpaw, from this moment you will be known as Moonwatcher. StarClan honors your determination and loyalty, and we welcome you as a full medicine cat of ShadowClan." Lilyheart stepped forward and rested his muzzle on Moonwatcher.

"Moonwatcher! Moonwatcher!" The other medicine cats cheered. Moonwatcher felt warmth flow through her as she was confident that this was what Brackenpaw felt when she surprised him with a small apprentice ceremony. They had both never expected this to ever happen.

"Let's share with StarClan now." Heathercloud mewed. Moonwatcher touched the cold water, and closed her eyes. When she opened them again, she saw herself in StarClan's hunting grounds, a place she longed to see. Looking around, Moonwatcher was surprised when she saw the other medicine cats with her.

"StarClan must have a message for all of us." Yellowshade declared.

A rustle came from the bush in front of them, and four cats came out. A fluffy white she-cat with green eyes, a small brown tom with amber eyes, a striped dark ginger tom with black eyes and a large cream- coloured tom with black spots and brown eyes. Lilyheart stepped forward.

"These cats are the old medicine cats from our Clans." He explained. "The white she-cat is Mistecho from WindClan, the brown tom is Snakefall from ShadowClan, the dark ginger tom is Applestripe from ThunderClan and the cream-coloured tom is Sunspeckle from RiverClan." He told them. *That makes sense he knows them, Lilyheart is the oldest medicine cat out of all of us.* Moonwatcher thought.

"We have to warn you all about something." Mistecho mewed.

"Soon a Storm that Shadow has met will come." Snakefall started.

"The Storm will cause a flood like none other." Applestripe continued.

"But in the end, the Moon must be ready to kill the Storm." Sunspeckle finished. The medicine cats stood there, confused. *Why can't StarClan just say what they mean?* Moonwatcher wondered. The four cats left right after they finished the message, and Moonwatcher's vision blurred. She then found herself back at the Moonpool.

"Well, what could StarClan possibly mean this time?" Fogberry asked.

"*Soon a Storm that Shadow has met will come. The Storm will cause a flood like no other. But in the end, the Moon must be ready to kill the storm."* Ivymist repeated. "Any ideas?"

"My mind's blank." Fawnleap replied.

"Let's just go home and tell our leader about this." Lilyheart suggested."

The medicine cats agreed, and they all left.

. . .

Moonwatcher watched her mentor being buried a few fox-lengths outside of camp. A few days after StarClan's message, Lilyheart looked really sick and was wheezing, but he kept saying that he was fine and refused to take any herbs. He had now stopped breathing completely when dawn came. Beetlewing put his tail on Moonwatcher's shoulder.

"It'll be fine Moonwatcher. The whole Clan were expecting it." He mewed. Moonwatcher enjoyed his comforting words, but still couldn't hold back the grief inside her chest. She now knew that she would be the main medicine cat in ShadowClan, and she wouldn't have anybody to help her.

Standing by the herb store sorting out the newly collected herbs, Moonwatcher herd a cat come in, and turned around to find Littlepaw holding a thrush.

"I wanted to give you this thrush." he mewed.

"Sorry Littlepaw, but I actually just ate." Moonwatcher apologised. "You can eat that for yourself, though."

Littlepaw nodded and headed back out the medicine den. A few heartbeats later, Crowfur came in.

"I have a thorn in my pad." Crowfur growled in annoyance. Moonpaw looked at the thorn and sniffed it. She gripped it with her teeth and pulled it out quickly. Crowfur yelped and started licking his paw. *Thank StarClan he isn't making a fuss out of it this time.* Moonwatcher recalled the time moons ago when Crowfur had stepped on a thorn and was wailing like a kit. She grabbed some marigold and chewed it into a pulp before spreading it on the tom's paw. Suddenly, Icefur dashed into the medicine den, panicking.

"Something happened to Littlepaw!" He yowled. "He was eating a thrush when he suddenly collapsed."

Moonwatcher dashed out of the medicine den, where she saw Icefur's apprentice lying near the fresh-kill pile, foam flowing out of his mouth. Moonwatcher got to the herb storage as fast as possible and grabbed some yarrow, before leaving again, chewing it and

dropping it inside of Littlepaw's jaw. She massaged his throat, encouraging him to swallow the herb. Littlepaw finally spewed, along with some small seeds.

"Deathberries." Moonwatcher mewed. *Did Littlepaw try to poison me? That can't be the case, he ate the thrush himself.*

"Is he going to be ok?" Cindertail wailed. "Littlepaw was already a weak kit when he was born."

"Moonwatcher knows what she's doing, Littlepaw will be fine." Ashfoot assured.

After Littlepaw finished, he fell onto the ground.
Moonwatcher picked the small tom and rested him on the nest in the medicine den. *I'm going to question him when he wakes up.*

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You know, when I'm making my plan for this book, I get kinda bored. If anybody reads my plan there will guaranteed be weird bits.

[image]
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# Chapter 29

Moonwatcher imagined Storm was in front of her, and she clawed at the non-existing cat. She really doubted Hazelpelt's interpretation of StarClan's message, but she wanted to practice her battle moves just in case. Moonwatcher also told the medicine cats and Foxstar about her interpretation.

Last night, Hazelpelt woke Moonwatcher, and she was soaking. Moonwatcher was too tired to ask what happened. The very next morning, Foxstar announced to ShadowClan that the cliff on the side of the gorge is too dangerous now, and Moonwatcher concluded that Hazelpelt went there during the night for whatever reason.

After practicing, Moonwatcher headed to her herb storage and checked each one. *I need more borage.* Moonwatcher was about to leave when Hollowpaw and Meadowpaw bounded up to her.

"Moonwatcher! You're going out to collect herbs, right?" Meadowpaw asked.

"Can we come with you?" Hollowpaw pleaded when Moonwatcher nodded. She looked at their mentors, Briarfang and Amberstorm.

"Let them come, we both can't train them." Amberstorm meowed. "You know Twigfang is having my kits."

"And you know that you excused me from warrior duties two sunrises ago!" Her old mentor exclaimed.

"Ok, follow me." Moonwatcher told Hollowpaw and Meadowpaw. They shot out of camp excitedly.

"Borage is a blue star-shaped flower with hairy leaves. When picking them, make sure to leave some so that it can regrow."

The two apprentices nodded excitedly, and dashed off. Moonwatcher headed the opposite direction.

She walked around the territory for a while, before finding a clump of borage, and nipped off a few flowers. Moonwatcher turned to leave, when she felt paws push her down, and she choked on the borage. Twisting her head to see her attacker, Moonwatcher saw a white she-cat with odd pink tips on her ears, tail and paws. At that moment, Hollowpaw and Meadowpaw appeared a few fox-lengths in front of the two cats.

"Get back to camp!" Moonwatcher yowled. "Tell ShadowClan rogues are—"

Moonwatcher was cut off by the white she-cat, who grabbed her head without a warning and shoved Moonwatcher's head into the ground. Thankfully, the two apprentices dashed off and disappeared through the pine trees.

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This is a REALLY short chapter oof
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# Chapter 30

Beetlewing crept as quietly as he could towards the distracted mouse, making sure to check each paw step before setting it down. The mouse turned its head towards the grass Beetlewing was trying to camouflage in, and his brown pelt gave his spot away as the mouse scampered into the forest.

"Bad luck." Hazelpelt meowed, who was hunting with Beetlewing. Suddenly, Hollowpaw and Meadowpaw crashed into her.

"There's a rogue attacking Moonwatcher!" Meadowpaw stuttered very quickly.

"Show me where." Hazelpelt demanded.

As she disappeared with the two apprentices, Beetlewing dashed to camp.

"Foxstar!" He panted as he found his leader sitting by the fresh-kill pile. "Rogues are attacking!"

Foxstar was instantly alert and jumped onto Highrock.
"Ashfoot, arrange patrols to surround the rogues. The rest of you defend the camp. ShadowClan will not lose this time!"

Yowls of agreement filled the clearing, as Ashfoot quickly organised patrols. "Beetlewing, go with Foxstar's patrol."

Beetlewing nodded and followed Foxstar out of camp.

Beetlewing easily kept in pace beside Meadowpaw as she lead the patrol towards where she spotted the rogues. Beetlewing finally caught the scent of blood and crashed through the bushes, onto a white she-cat with unnatural pink tips.

"Don't touch Kat!" A striped brown tom appeared out of the bushes, and was lunging towards Beetlewing.

Foxstar pinned the tom down easily, when another brown tom, but larger with more scars and no stripes, crashed into the scene. "Storm- Clan, attack!"

Even more cats dispersed from the bushes, even more than ShadowClan has. In panic, Beetlewing grabbed a black tom's scruff and shoved him away from Moonwatcher, who was now standing up and dashing to camp. Beetlewing looked around for Hazelpelt, and he saw her hazel pelt among the fighting cats. She was fighting a small, calico she-cat, who looked like a kit.

"Go back to your twolegs, this isn't a battle for kits." Hazelpelt hissed, just enough for Beetlewing to hear. "Get out of here Tweazers."

Beetlewing saw a white tom creeping up to Hazelpelt from behind, and he summoned all his strength to kick the tom into brambles. Hazelpelt turned and quickly gave Beetlewing a thankful nod, before jumping into the battle again.

"Beetlewing, Hazelpelt!" Ashfoot called, while fighting a brown tabby she-cat. "Go to ThunderClan and RiverClan!"

"I'll go to ThunderClan!" Hazelpelt yowled.

Beetlewing nodded, and was about to run, when he felt a tug on his tail. A ginger she-cat was holding him with her jaw. Beetlewing kicked the she-cat's face, sending her flying.

"Get them!" The she-cat hissed. Some rogues left the battle to chase Hazelpelt and Beetlewing, and Beetlewing prayed that his sister would be okay.

Beetlewing looked ahead, and saw a gray tom trying to block him off. Summoning all his might, Beetlewing jumped over him, leaving the stunned cat in silence. He easily outran all the cats, and swerved through the trees to get them lost. He finally saw the border to RiverClan and crossed the border. *Where's the camp?* Beetlewing started to panic and started running around the territory, keeping an eye out for a patrol.

"Hey, what's a ShadowClan cat doing on RiverClan territory?"  Beetlewing turned around to find five cats facing him.

"The rogues came back, they're attacking us!" Beetlewing meowed.

"So?" The gray tom hissed. "That's ShadowClan's problem."

Beetlewing got annoyed. "These rogues would definitely try to take over the entire forest, and their Clan is way larger than any Clan around the lake. *Especially* RiverClan."

"Moonwatcher might be in trouble!" The small gray apprentice mewed. Beetlewing wondered how he knew Moonwatcher.

The gray tom looked at the gray she-cat beside him. The gray she-cat then dashed the other direction, while the gray tom ran towards ShadowClan.

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So, I just realised that the lake territory doesn't have a gorge.

Crap.

Eh, I'm not gonna change it.

You can't make me.
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# Chapter 31

Brackenpaw did his best to keep up with Thicketwhisker and Heathercloud, as they followed the gray RiverClan cat and brown ShadowClan cat. He and his new mentor had been invited by Heathercloud to go to RiverClan to ask for a solution for the rabbits eating all their catmint, and was being escorted home when they bumped into the ShadowClan cat.

The five cats pass the ShadowClan marker, and keep on running until they found the camp. Near the entrance was Moonwatcher, stumbling into the bramble thicket. Heathercloud immediately pressed onto her side, taking some of her weight, and they both disappeared into the medicine den. The other four jumped down into the clearing and got ready for the rogues to appear any moment. Around him, Brackenpaw saw elders and queens in front of the nursery, ready to protect the kits, while the warriors were in front of dens, hiding in places, battle-ready for when the rogues came into the camp.

Brackenpaw waited for a few heartbeats, yet the rogues still didn't come. *Did ShadowClan beat the rogues?* His hope died down when he caught the scent of a lot of cats and stale blood. The rogues crashed through the thorns surrounding the camp, and one landed on Brackenpaw. Brackenpaw remembered the new move he learnt from Thicketwhisker and scratched the rogue's belly with his hind legs, making him let Brackenpaw go. Brackenpaw rolled over, quickly turned around and clawed at the rogue's eyes, however, he missed. The rogue smirked and bit down on Brackenpaw's throat. He got thrown aside by a cat Brackenpaw recognised as Pinkshine from RiverClan.

"RiverClan and ThunderClan have arrived!" A cat yowled.

Brackenpaw could see the rogues slowly losing. Claws raked his back and ear, and Brackenpaw kicked who was attacking him. Even more battling was surrounding him, and his throat was bleeding,

and his ear was stinging. Suddenly, a cat pushed him back, and Brackenpaw pushed the cat off him, and out of instincts, bit down on its throat. He heard a snap sound, and the cat underneath him fell limp. *I killed a cat.*

"You killed her!" Brackenpaw turned around to see a striped brown tom, his eyes filled with anger. Looking back, he saw that the cat he had just killed and saw a white she-cat with pink tips. Brackenpaw looked back again to see that the tom had disappeared. He then got pinned down once again. The tom lifted his huge claw, and looked like he was aiming for Brackenpaw's belly. Brackenpaw took advantage of his small size against the large tom, rolled over and launched away from the tom. A calico tom appeared and raked the rogue's eyes, making him blind. The rogue got up and quickly ran away, back into the battle. Looking around, Brackenpaw saw that a lot of the rogues were retreating, and only a brown tom stood.

Foxstar took a step towards the rogue with unsheathed claws. "Get you and your rogues out of Clan territory."
"StormClan never backs down." The rogue snarled.

Enraged, Foxstar kicked off towards the rogue. However, he easily got pinned down, and the brown tom ripped open the ShadowClan leader's belly. Brackenpaw stared in horror as Foxstar writhed in pain. A lot of cats attempted to attack the brown tom, however, he seemed to gain a lot of new strength from his defeat, and also quickly defeated the cats that had attacked him. Twisted bodies were surrounding the tom, including ShadowClan's leader.

"Hey, you don't look like the deputy from StormClan!" A hazel she-cat stepped forward. *Does she know those rogues?* Brackenpaw wondered.

"Ivystar made a rule that to become the leader, you must kill them." Gasps of shock sounded from around the clearing. *That's cruel!*

"I've heard that you know about the traitors from each Clan." The rogue continued.

Three cats from the crowd stepped forward.

"Breezewing!" A RiverClan cat called from the crowd, his yowl filled with grief and anger. *Breezewing must be the the gray she-cat.*

A WindClan cat jumped down into the clearing, and Brackenpaw recognised the cat as Reedspeckle.

"Moonwatcher, I see you've come out." The rogue meowed.

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*jojo reference intensifies*
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# Chapter 32

Anger filled her body as Moonwatcher approached the cat that had killed her brother.

"I suppose you're Racoonstar now." She hissed.

"Yes, and stronger than ever." Racoonstar hissed back. Moonwatcher ignored the hostile glares from the four traitors, one including her mother.

"I defeated you once, I can do it again."

"You four. Kill her!" Racoonstar lashed his tail on the ground, and Moonwatcher saw three cats fling towards her.

"Don't touch my daughter!" A surprising snarl sounded from behind the three traitors, turning their attention to it.

Pebblewing shoved the three cats away from Moonwatcher, but they quickly got back up and attacked Pebblewing. Moonwatcher swerved awound them and headed straight for Racoonstar. He was still shocked from the betrayal of Pebblewing, but snapped back to reality as Moonwatcher swiped at his face. Racoonstar aimed at her throat, but she crouched down. However, Racoonstar grabbed onto her ear, and Moonwatcher felt it stinging. She clawed Racoonstar's side, making him back up. Kicking off towards her, Moonwatcher crouched, ready to spring at Racoonstar. Instead, he jumped over her, and a surprised yelp sounded. Moonwatcher turned to see Racoonstar's jaws around Pebblewing's neck, blood oozing from his mouth. Two of the traitors were scarred badly, and the gray she-cat layed limp on the ground. The only family member Moonwatcher had was gone.

Racoonstar saw how shook she was and pounced at her. Moonwatcher dodged just in time and jumped onto his back, sinking her claws into Racoonstar's pelt. He shook her off and kicked her off her legs as soon as she got up. Racoonstar raked at

Moonwatcher's side and pinned her down.

"I told you that I was stronger than ever." Racoonstar snarled.

"Clearly not strong enough." Moonwatcher growled. She swiped across his eyes, hitting his right eye. Racoonstar yowled, and Moonwatcher took this opportunity and pinned him on the ground. Without hesitating, Moonwatcher bit down on the brown tom's throat. Racoonstar writhed under her grasp. Eventually he stopped struggling and lay still, not breathing and no pulse. Moonwatcher let go of his throat as the cats around the clearing cheered. *I did it.* Moonwatcher thought. *StormClan won't be able to harm any more cats.*

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I'll say it here. I can't make fight scenes last long.
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